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CHINESE INCOMPETENCY IN THE WAR.

(31st January.)

The picture of Nero fiddling while Rome was burning was hardly greater proof of apathy and indifference than Chinese officialdom has been giving in presence of the successful invarion of the Central Kingdom by the Japanese armies. The vast majority of the mandarins exhibit as little concern at the impending annihilation of their fleet and the occupation of the capital as did the Roman Emperor over the destruction of a great part of the imperial city on the Tiber. To Western ideas such a marvellous absence of patriotism seems incredible and is certainly phenomenal. To the Chinese mind there is nothing wonderful about it; they regard the misfortunes that have come upon Manchuria and North China as regrettable but as something that cannot be helped and that must therefore be endured. They have put up with previous conquests, and they presumably will, should the Japanese reduce the whole of the Northern provinces, accept such an incident also as an accomplished fact, unpleasant but unavoidable. They will blame the Peking Authorities, but they will not rush to their assistance. And the Chinese people are not to be blamed. They have never been admitted to the smallest share in the administration; the direction of foreign affairs has been left in the hands of the officials, who have been entrusted with the funds to provide for national defence, and it is on their shoulders therefore that the responsibility rests. So far the high Chinese Authorities have shown little sense of that responsibility falling with any crushing weight upon them. They have steadily adhered to the ancient ways, spite of the lessons the campaign may have been supposed to read to sensible and discerning men. The fatal apathy and conceit that wrap them round as with an impenetrable cloak prevent them from taking any new departure or making any extraordinary effort to save the country. The expulsion of the Chinese armies from Korea, the crippling of the Chinese fleet at Haichang near the Yaloo River, the invasion of Manchuria, the capture of Port Arthur, the greatest naval stronghold in the Empire, the fall of successive cities into Japanese hands, were all regarded with the apathy not of fatalism but of indifference and want of patriotism. The same lack of loyalty born of mistrust of his own Government that restrains a Chinaman from contributing to war loans operates to make him careless to the ills that are overtaking the country.

The Japanese are now closely investing Wei-hai-wei, and before long we shall probably learn of the capture of this the last naval station China possesses north of the Yangtsze. The Japanese troops first bombarded Tungchow and then attacked and took Yungching. They have also occupied the island of Yiming, and more recently landed a force at Ninghai. As usual, the Chinese were caught napping. The few forts were quickly silenced and the Chinese troops were compelled to retire. The result is that the General in command of the Japanese Third Army Corps has taken up strong positions on both sides of Wei-hai-wei, and from Yungching Bay has ere this probably captured Kiaochow, which possesses a splendid harbour and is a commanding position from whence he can advance upon Wei-hai-wei. The possession of Kiaochow will, moreover, open to the Japanese the trade routes of the province of Shantung and the road to Tientsin. Their more immediate object is of course the reduction of Wei-hai-wei, and this will be effected before they attempt any advance north. The Chinese are said to be massing large bodies of troops for the assistance of Wei-hai-wei, as the Viceroy LI HUNG-CHANG has given orders for various armies to march at once in that direction to raise the siege. We do not believe, however, that any Chinese army will be able to accomplish such a feat, and in all probability the port will have been carried by storm before they arrive on the scene. It is possible there may be some sharp fighting when the final assault comes to be made, if it be true that the guns from the Peiyang Squadron have been landed and placed in position, but as the foreigners have all left the place it is tolerably certain the Chinese will soon lose heart. But the Japanese are not wont to overlook contingencies, and they will be prepared for resistance. A section of the Chinese forces at Pingyang fought bravely enough; some of the garrison at Port Arthur offered a stubborn resistance and worked the guns with a will until the Japanese carried the outworks; but there was no systematized defence, and what happened before will occur again, inasmuch as there is no recognised head and no proper plan of compaign. Wei-hai-wei is doomed, and the Peiyang Squadron cannot effect a retreat, having tarried there in idle security until the Japanese came and hemmed them in by laying contact torpedoes just outside the harbour. If, however, they should break through this danger there would still be the Japanese fleet, which they would have to fight before they could escape to the south. The time has gone by for action; Admiral TING and his ships are caught like rats in a trap, and will doubtless fall as ignominiously. The example of KUNG Taotai and the six Generals at Port Arthur is before TING and his officers, and as most of the former worthies have lived to fight another day, why should not the beleagured in Wei-hai-wei copy or improve upon it?

THE NEUTRALITY OF SHANGHAI.

At the commencement of the hostilities between China and Japan the Japanese Government undertook to recognise the neutrality of the port of Shanghai. No equivalent undertaking was given by China with respect to Yokohama or the other open ports of Japan, but if the fortunes of war had resulted differently from what they have and China had been in a position to carry out her threat of harrying the coasts of Japan, the treaty Powers would naturally have called "hands off" so far as the open ports were concerned. The policy of the Powers is to prevent interference with foreign trade and it is mainly for the enforcement of that policy that the various fleets in the Far East have been so largely increased. The undertaking of Japan with respect to Shanghai was not given unsolicited and had it not been given at all the result would have been practically the same, for under any circumstances interference with the trade of Shanghai would not have been permitted. We have no wish to detract from the credit due to Japan for her reasonableness in recognising the situation and giving an undertaking that removed apprehension of disagreeable complications, but the fact remains that even in the absence of such an undertaking Japan would not have been allowed a perfectly free hand in respect of the treaty ports. No special undertaking was given with respect to Chefoo, but a Reuter's telegram informed us the other day that the combined foreign fleets had prevented the Japanese from attacking the Chefoo forts. Similar action would be taken at any other of the open ports where foreign interests were likely to suffer from the proposed operations of the invaders. In the case of Canton, for instance, although the Powers might offer no objection to the Japanese landing at some point on the coast and marching on the city, opposition would certainly be offered to any operations which might interfere with the free navigation of the river or threaten the safety of the foreign settlements.

With regard to the undertaking given by Japan to observe the neutrality of Shanghai, however, a point has been raised by the Japanese press which no doubt causes some soreness. It is claimed that the undertaking was given on the understanding that it should hold good only so long as the Chinese refrained from using Shanghai as a base for offensive or warlike operations against Japan. We believe no such reservation was made at the time the undertaking was given, though the Japanese may hold it to have been implied. China on her part certainly never gave any undertaking placing restrictions on her right to use the port as she might see fit. It is now urged by the Japanese papers that China, taking advantage of Japan's complacency, has made Shanghai the centre from which to distribute warlike supplies and troops. The Kiangnan Arsenal, on the river Hwangpu, just above Shanghai, has also been kept in a state of ceaseless activity, turning out arms and ammunition. In short, the practical neutrality of the port of Shanghai has been availed of by the Chinese to procure unlimited supplies of warlike material, whereby the struggle may be prolonged. It is not difficult to understand the irritation that this must cause in Japan, but we fail to see how the cause of that irritation can be removed. The Powers could not reasonably ask China to refrain from using such means of defence as she possesses, and the supplies of war material turned out by the Kiangnan Arsenal and the facilities afforded by the port of Shanghai are amongst the most important of those means. If Japan threatens to withdraw from her undertaking unless the Powers will assist her in crippling China by preventing the latter using her ports and arsenals, then all that would remain for the Powers to do would be to step in and say the quarrel must stop and dictate the terms of peace. It would be a most mistaken policy on the part of Japan to bring about such a situation as that. There was at one time talk of foreign intervention, but the idea, if it was ever really formulated, was speedily abandoned, and the policy of the Powers now is to allow the belligerents to fight out their quarrel in their own way so long as foreign interests are not directly interfered with. For Japan to disturb the basis on which that policy rests, by threatening Shanghai, would be to deprive herself of the glory of carrying to its natural conclusion the war she has hitherto so successfully waged and also possibly of some of the more material advantages of victory.

EXPECTED OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER.

The remarks made by the Hon. E. R. BELILIOS at the meeting of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company yesterday with reference to the probable opening up of the various branches of the Pearl River are pleasantly suggestive. With a large fleet of light draught steamers running on the West, North, and East Rivers a great impulse would be given to the growth of trade in South China, and hand in hand with the establishment of steam navigation would necessarily go a reform in the collection of duties, the admirable service of the Foreign Customs supplanting

the dishonest squeeze stations which are distributed along the rivers and which hamper and strangle trade to such an extent that goods are frequently conveyed by longer and more difficult routes in order to escape them. A writer in a recent issue of the *London and China Express* said—"There is "no reason why the Foreign Protectorate "of Customs should not be extended to the "interior, and it seems quite certain that "in this direction of extended trade the "future of China—socially, politically, and "commercially—must lie. With a thoroughly "organised system of internal inspection the "Imperial revenue would increase by leaps "and bounds, and though the shock to the pre-"sent fiscal system would be great, the num-"ber of posts to be placed at the disposal of "intelligent Chinamen (not necessarily Man-"darins) would gradually increase, and would, "in course of time, lay the foundation of a "Civil Service system on a Western model." These remarks will be endorsed by all residents in China; but the squeeze system will not be easily overcome, for its roots are deeply fixed, and we are afraid it will be long before the collection of the whole internal revenue is entrusted to the Foreign Customs. Even that, however, may happen sooner than expected, but in any case it is certain that as the ramifications of foreign trade extend the reform of the fiscal system must proceed *pari passu*. If the West, North, and East Rivers are opened to foreign trade the collection of the duties along those waterways will have to be entrusted to the Foreign Customs. And the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company thinks the probability of such opening sufficiently great to justify it in keeping in hand a large amount of capital not used in its present business and which might otherwise be returned to the shareholders.

To what extent Japan may make the opening up of China one of the terms of peace remains uncertain, but the opening of the waterways of the Southern provinces has for some years past been urged on the Peking Government by the British Minister, at the request of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, and it may reasonably be anticipated that in the changes that will take place directly or indirectly consequent on the present war compliance with this reasonable demand will be included. The opportunity the opening of the waterways to foreign trade would afford for extending the area of the Foreign Customs' jurisdiction might even be in itself an inducement in the eyes of the Peking Government, for the advantages of that Service must have been forcibly brought home to the Emperor's advisers during the course of the war. The limited success which has attended the efforts to raise provincial loans has been achieved solely by virtue of the signature of the Foreign Commissioner of Customs to the bonds, and had the matter been left entirely in the hands of Sir ROBERT HART'S staff without the native provincial officials having any hand in it the success would probably have been complete. It was also stated a short time ago that Mr. VON HANNEKEN'S Coast Defence Service was to be joined to the Foreign Customs Service for administrative purposes, which meant, we take it, that it was considered that was the only means by which the purloining of the funds could be prevented. The humiliating defeat China has suffered at the hands of her small neighbour is due mainly to the corruption which prevails in every branch of the administration, a fact which the Chinese themselves cannot have failed to recognise, and the severe lesson they have undergone may incline them to reform. The country has had severe lessons before, and has not willingly profited very much by them, but they have always left some effect, and it will be the same with the present, though to what extent it would be rash to predict. It seems not unreasonable to expect, however, that in her present state of weakness China will not much longer resist the very reasonable demand urged by the British Minister that the West River should be thrown open to foreign trade and navigation.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE OWNERS OF CLOSED HOUSES.

The memorial of the owners of property closed during the plague, outside the resumed area in Taipingshan, has not yet been forwarded to the Secretary of State, we understand, and its publication was somewhat premature, resulting from an inadvertence. Now that the document has been published, however, it would be useless to affect ignorance of it, and on the whole it is perhaps not to be regretted that it has seen the light somewhat earlier than would be sanctioned by conventional and official courtesy, which, it may be stated, there was no wish to disregard. As the memorial has not been sent in to the Governor there will be time to correct a misstatement which occurs in the second paragraph and which strikes a false note at the outset. The first paragraph is merely descriptive of the memorialists as affected by the Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance. The second paragraph reads as follows:—"This Ordinance was passed "by the Legislative Council of Hongkong "upon the 29th day of December, 1894, by "the votes of the six official members of the "Legislative Council against the protests "and the votes of the four unofficial mem-"bers of that Council, and the interests of "your Memorialists are peculiarly affected "by the said Ordinance." As a matter of fact no division was called for on either the second or third reading of the Bill, both of which were passed *nem. con.* The unofficial members opposed certain sections, but did not oppose the Bill as a whole, and it is therefore incorrect to say it was passed against their protests and votes. The memorial, however, refers specially to one section of the Ordinance, No. 16, which is one of those that were contested, but even as applied to this section the above quoted statement is not strictly accurate, as it conveys the impression that the opposition of the unofficial members was unanimous, whereas there are five, not four unofficials, and while four voted against the clause one refrained from voting. It would be well, therefore, if this clause of the memorial were redrafted.

Apart from the initial error above pointed out, the memorial presents the case of the landlords very cogently and argues it out more forcibly than was done in the Legislative Council. Hitherto this question has been presented to the public practically only on one side, and the old saying applies, that one side of a case is good until the other has been heard. We cannot profess to feel much sympathy with the landlords, whose rights are as a rule put forward much more prominently than their obligations, but in any particular case that is presented the principles of equity must be adhered to. And it must be admitted the memorialists make out a strong though not an unassailable case. They do not complain of their premises having been taken possession of while the plague was raging, but that afterwards, when the premises had been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and when the colony was free from plague, the Permanent Committee refused to return them to the owners until the latter had agreed to give undertakings in writing as to the future occupation of the premises, which undertakings the Permanent Committee had no right to demand. They only ask, they say, "that they should be compensated for "the losses they have sustained through the "absolutely illegal action of the Sanitary "Board in refusing to return their property "after it had been disinfected and cleaned." What was done was that the Permanent Committee refused to return the houses until certain requirements had been complied with which have since received the sanction of law, but which went beyond the law at that time. It would seem, therefore, that the owners of closed houses were called upon to place their houses in a superior condition to the generality of houses in the colony, which may be regarded as a hardship. But the Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance now enforces those requirements in respect of all houses in the colony and if the signatories to the memorial had complied with the requirements at the time they were made by the Permanent Committee they would only have been anticipating the law by a few months; and it was a moral certainty that a law would be passed in accordance with the recommendations of the Permanent Committee. The cost of the work would have been practically the same whether done before the actual law was passed or afterwards, and if the owners of the closed houses chose to remain obstinate until the Legislative Council had formally dealt with the matter it is hard that the ratepayers should have to recoup them for their loss of rents. It would perhaps have been better had the Permanent Committee returned the houses to their owners as soon as they had been cleaned and disinfected and left the question of general improvements to be dealt with when the Ordinance was passed, but the mistake of not doing so having been made it is possible the Secretary of State may consider the landlords have some claim for compensation. If that be so and an Ordinance has to be passed to give effect to a decision in that sense stringent safeguards ought to be provided against exorbitant claims. Any landlord might at once have obtained the return of his property by doing voluntarily what he is now required to do by law, and under those circumstances the compensation to be granted, if any, should be on a strictly moderate scale.

THE INSANITARY DWELLINGS ORDINANCE AND IMPERMEABLE FLOORS.

The question of providing impermeable floors to all domestic buildings in the colony does not seem to have been sufficiently considered in detail before the passing of the recent Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance. Most Chinese houses have only earthen floors in the basement, and it was to introduce better conditions in respect of houses of this class that section 4 was included in the Ordinance. This section prohibits the inhabitation of domestic buildings, after the 1st July, 1895, until impermeable floors are provided. No exception is made in favour of boarded floors, and the question arises whether all European houses, as well as Chinese, are to be provided with impermeable floors. In European buildings erected during the last few years it has been customary to cover the ground surface with a layer of concrete or to smooth it over and beat in a sprinkling of lime. In the older houses, however, on removing the boards of the ground floor the virgin earth will be seen beneath. Are these houses to be provided with impermeable floors? If so, many of the terraces will be affected as well as the stores and offices along Queen's

Road, the occupation of the upper storeys of which for residential purposes brings them within the definition of domestic buildings. But no healthier floor can be devised than one of boards, where European notions of cleanliness prevail and although in building new houses it may be theoretically desirable to have a layer of impervious material underneath the boards, on account of the miasma supposed to arise from newly disturbed earth, in the case of old houses whatever danger or ill-effects there may originally have been from this cause have disappeared with the lapse of time. Moreover, the object in view at the time of the passing of the Ordinance was not interference with houses of this class, but simply the substitution of impermeable floors for the ordinary earthen floors in Chinese houses, the reason being that owing to the uncleanly habits of the Chinese earthen floors become sodden with sewage matter. But it does not appear clear that the Sanitary Board, which is authorised to make by-laws "for prescribing "the material and the nature and thickness "thereof to be used for covering over the "ground surface of all buildings," has power to make any exception in the case of houses with boarded floors. Section 4 gives the Board power to extend the period within which impermeable floors must be provided, and to give permission for the occupation of domestic buildings within such extended period, after the 1st July, but that does not give power to waive altogether the requirement as to the provision of impermeable floors. There is also a proviso that the section "shall not apply to any domestic "building, cookhouse, latrine, privy, or back "yard which has been paved to the satisfaction "of the Sanitary Board in accordance with "any existing law or by-law and which is so "maintained;" but in the cases referred to, namely, houses with boarded floors over earth, there is no paving at all, so that this exemption would not apply. A committee of the Sanitary Board is at present engaged in drafting the by-laws to be made under the Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance and as the decision of the Board in respect to impermeable floors is awaited with some anxiety it is desirable there should be no unnecessary delay in the matter. It is said to be possible to drive a coach and four through any Act of Parliament and perhaps some way may be found by which the Board may be able to exempt European houses from the operation of the section in question, but a mistake seems to have been made when drafting the Ordinance in not expressly excluding from the provisions of this section houses with boarded floors and a reasonable space between the earth and the boards. According to section 14 the provisions of section 4 are to apply "to "all domestic buildings hereafter erected "and to all such domestic buildings as "are situated within the boundaries of "the city of Victoria as defined in Ordin-"ance 15 of 1888, and within such other "districts or places in this colony as "may from time to time be defined by the "Governor in Council and notified in the "*Gazette*." Houses in the Hill District and in Kowloon will therefore be exempt, in the absence of any notification to the contrary, but according to our own reading of the Ordinance every house within the limits of the city, whether European or Chinese, must be provided with impermeable floors.

The *Hyogo News* says:—Among exports cotton-flannel has obtained the highest rise in price of late. The import of flannel last year was unusually small, and the demands at home and both in China and Korea by the soldiers have been so great that it costs at present 50 per cent. higher than usual.

THE WAR.

THE OPERATIONS AT WEIHAIWEI.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "DAILY PRESS"]

SHANGHAI, 1st February, 8 47 p.m.

The report of the taking of Weihaiwei by the Japanese is believed to be unfounded, as the telegraph line is still open. The three eastern forts have been taken.

SHANGHAI, 4th February.

All the mainland forts at Weihaiwei have been captured by the Japanese. The guns were destroyed.

The Japanese fleet is bombarding Liukungtao.

There was a strong gale yesterday and it is believed that some torpedo boats were lost.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, 30th January.

It is stated in Yokohama that twenty-five Chinese war-ships are shut up in Weihaiwei Harbour.

A Chinese loan of £3,000,000 bearing interest at 6 per cent. has been issued in London.

The *Times* correspondent at Shanghai wires that the combined foreign fleets have prevented the Japanese from attacking the Chefoo forts.

LONDON, 31st January.

The *Times* correspondent in Shanghai wires that the Chinese fleet at Weihaiwei has driven off the Japanese fleet, and that a land attack from Ninghai has been repulsed.

The Chinese Envoys have arrived at Kobe.

A Japanese despatch states that their advance in Manchuria has checked the activity of the Chinese.

LONDON, 1st February.

Japanese infantry have captured the Eastern fort at Weihaiwei.

LONDON 2nd February.

The Japanese have captured Weihaiwei, after two days' skirmishing. The Chinese bolted when the assault was made. The Chinese still hold the island of Liukungtau.

All the Chinese war-ships escaped from Weihaiwei undamaged.

The Japanese Ministers are conferring with the Chinese Envoys.

LONDON, 4th February.

The news that the Chinese fleet had left Weihaiwei was incorrect. The fleet took shelter under the guns of the forts on the island of Liukungtao, and up to Friday the fleet and the forts were unsubdued.

It is reported from Yokohama that the credentials of the Chinese Envoys despatched to Tokyo were found imperfect, that parleying was refused, that the Envoys have been told to depart, and that they proceed to Nagasaki under protection.

The British, French, and Russian Ministers at Peking and Tokyo have received instructions to advise Japan and China to arrange peace.

THE LANDING OF THE JAPANESE FORCES IN SHANTUNG.

The *Japan Mail* of the 25th January gives the following details of the landing of the forces for the attack on Weihaiwei:—

Official intelligence of the landing of the third expeditionary force on the Shantung promontory was received yesterday morning. The delay seems to have been caused by an interruption of the telegraph to the north of Phyongyang, and the consequent necessity of communicating *via* Ujina instead of from Port Arthur. The *Satsuma Maru* carried the news to Ujina. She reported having left Talien Bay at 1 p.m. on the 19th in company with other transports, and reaching Yungchang at daybreak on the 20th. The *Yayeyama Kan* and other vessels of war had preceded the transports for the purpose of clearing away any resistance, and finding earthworks with four guns mounted and some 300 artillerymen had silenced the former and dispersed the latter. Marines were then landed, and without incurring any loss they took possession of the four guns and transferred them to the *Yayeyama*. The consequently remained nothing to obstruct the debarkation of the troops. It was commenced at once, and at 3.40 p.m., when the *Satsuma Maru* left for Ujina, nearly the whole of the first batch of troops had landed, and an advance toward the town of Yungchang had commenced. The second flotilla of transports arrived on the 21st, and the troops carried by them landed with equal celerity, the weather being most favourable. In the Shantung lighthouse were found two Englishmen and a German, charged with the duty of of tending the light. They were placed on the same pay and allowances as before, and directed to continue in the discharge of their functions. The *Satsuma Maru* arrived at Ujina on the afternoon on the 23rd, carrying the above intelligence, which was subsequently confirmed by a telegram from Port Arthur, sent thither by Count Oyama himself.

The *Mail* of the next day gives the following:—Naturally the news from Shantung is still limited to details of the landing. It appears that the first detachment of the expeditionary force, embarking in 19 transports and convoyed by the *Yayayama* and other ships of war, steamed out of Talien Bay at 1 p.m. on the 19th instant. The distance to Yungcheng Bay, the place of debarkation, was 115 miles, and before daylight on the 20th the flotilla was off the Shantung Promontory. Before the transports entered the bay the men-of-war went in, and lowering some boats despatched a party to effect a landing. The probability of Yungcheng Bay being chosen had evidently occurred to the Chinese, for they had constructed near the shore a sand battery mounting four guns. On the approach of the Japanese boats fire was opened from this battery, which was manned by about 400 men. The boats rowed back a little way, and the ships at once began to fire shrapnel at the battery. A few well directed rounds settled the business. The Chinese, throwing away their rifles, discarding their uniforms, and abandoning the cannon, took to their heels, leaving four of their number dead. After 6 a.m. all resistance was at an end, and the landing of the troops commenced. Only one house on the shore was destroyed by the shells, though the Japanese vessels considered it necessary to continue desultory firing until about 9 a.m. in order to deter any advance of Chinese troops from the direction of Yungcheng. The water in the bay was found to be very deep and the transports had no difficulty in taking up excellent berths. Moreover, when the boats containing the troops rowed shoreward, they were able to get so close that the planks carried by them—planks 9ft. long by 2ft. broad—proved sufficient to allow of the troops' landing without a man wetting his feet. Numbers of Chinese boats were drawn up on the shore, but the facilities for landing were so good that none of these had to be used, the boats and launches of the fleet proving amply sufficient. In a very short time the Engineers succeeded in constructing a landing stage with lighters, and the landing of horses and guns took place without difficulty, so that at an early hour in the afternoon the advance guard was able to start for the town of Yungcheng, 7½ miles distant, which place it occupied the same night without encountering any resistance. The artillery, however, were obliged to bivouac for the night on the sea-shore, whence they set out on the 21st at daylight. That same morning (21st) the second batch of 20 transports arrived and began to land the troops they carried, the whole of the combatants getting ashore without accident in the afternoon. Our latest intelligence from Yungcheng is dated at 5 p.m. on the 22nd. It is an official message dispatched by the Staff, and as it says nothing about any third batch of transports, we presume that all the expeditionary forces were carried in the two flotillas of 39 transports mentioned above, though some of our vernacular contemporaries seem to think that the transports arrived in three detachments, namely, 19 on the 20th, 12 on the 21st, and 8 on the 22nd. Another message sent by the chief of the Commissariat Staff from Lungshui island at 10 p.m. the same night (22nd) says that about 1,000 of the enemy were posted at Puliu-tsun, a small town some six miles distant from Yungcheng in a south-westerly direction, but that the Japanese scouts had driven them out, and pushed on to Tienye-cheng. It does not appear that the Chinese have attempted to mass any troops in the vicinity of Yungcheng, for another telegram says that Shihchia-ho and Shakoch-wang (hamlets on the coast road from Yungcheng to Weihaiwei) are unprotected. Most of the troops in the district are reported to be volunteers recently raised. The military staff report that no difficulty whatever was experienced in getting the field guns to Yungcheng, and that from thence to Tienye-cheng there is a road that can be made fit to pass the guns over by a little repairs, upon which the Engineers are already engaged.

It would seem that a naval fight of some sort took place at Weihaiwei on the 21st. Lieut-

Colonel Tojo, reporting from Yangcheng on the evening of the 22nd, says that the sound of big guns was heard in the direction of Weihaiwei from noon on the 21st, and that during the night of that day the electric search light was reflected on the sky and more firing was heard. It looks as if the Peiyang squadron had made an attempt to escape and been intercepted.

THE STATE OF AFFAIRS AT PEKING.

A correspondent of the *China Gazette* writes:—

Everything is as quiet as possible here; the Chinese go about their daily avocations just as u'ual and imagine in their gross ignorance that this is the Middle Kingdom, round which the universe revolves. I fancy the officials are not quite comfortable; they appear disturbed; and from what I can hear and see are heartily sick of the war and everything connected with it. One thing is certain it has stirred up officialdom to its depths.

Pride and hatred are said to be strong in the people, and nothing but force and compunction will make them give in. They are not quite down on their knees yet, and affairs may take some unexpected turn before long. China proper is only now being affected by this war and up to this time the government has not concerned itself much, but now that they fear an occupation of the capital they are worried, and tired of the business. They are much better able to resist an invasion from the Japanese than formerly, as, roughly speaking, 400,000 men are camping in and near Peking; this number will at any rate take some killing, even if they do not do much towards fighting their foes. No doubt when spring comes we shall see some developments. It is believed here that if Japan was willing to come to terms which suited the Chinese they would be glad to settle, but if Japan puts conditions which China considers oppressive, China may be inclined to say "come on and do your worst." Then what might follow remains to be seen.

NO SHRAPNEL OR CASE SHOT AT WEIHAIWEI.

The Chinese, we are credibly informed, have not a single round of shrapnel or case shot with which to repel an infantry attack, though they are well-supplied with other varieties of ammunition. Most of the foreigners have left and gone to more secure quarters in Chefoo, only half-a-dozen or so remaining on board the ships. Amongst those who are standing to their guns through thick and thin are "Admiral" McClure; Mr. Mellows, an ex-Shanghai policeman and an old gunner's mate in the English navy, who now occupies a place on the quarterdeck of the *Tingyuen*; Mr. Woods, who was in the battle of the Yalu, and one or two others.

OVERTURES FROM A WOULD-BE ALLY.

Haicheng, *viâ* Japan, 26th January.

On the 9th instant a Chinese (Tartar?) General named Sun Naris Nakang, from the borders of Kirin or Shinghing, presented himself at the head-quarters of the 5th Army Division and vehemently denounced the ravages of the Chinese, whom he accused of being plunderers of the worst decription. He then offered his services to assist the Japanese in attacking Moukden, and said he had an organised force of 60,000 men who were ready to join the Japanese and thus avenge the cruelties of the Chinese. His offer appeared to be perfectly *bonafide* and there was no reason to treat it with suspicion. The Japanese treated him kindly, furnished him with money for travelling expenses, but declined his proferred aid. They instructed him, however, to report to them on the condition of the enemy. Besides this many petitions from the natives near Liaoyang have been received at the Administrative Bureau at Haicheng asking the Japanese to come speedily and occupy the district. Nothing could show plainer the attitude of the natives towards the invaders and the execration in which the Chinese authorities are held.—*China Gazette.*

THE OPERATIONS IN MANCHURIA.

We have endeavoured to keep our readers in touch with the operations of the contending forces in Manchuria, and another brief explanation at this stage will probably be useful. The high road from Shanhaikwan to Moukden, after travelling in a north-easterly direction along the western coast of the Gulf of Pechili, assumes, generally speaking, a curved form, the highest point of the curve touching the forty-second parallel of north latitude 35 miles before entering Moukden. The place at which the road begins to curve is Shisanshan. There, also, it bifurcates, the northern or main branch proceeding, as we have said, toward Moukden, the eastern leading along the northern coast of the Liaotung Gulf, to Kaiping *via* Yingkow (modern Newchwang), and thence to Suiyen and Chiulien. In other words, Chiulien and Shisanshan lie at the eastern and western extremities respectively of the chord of an arc at the highest point of which is Moukden, while the road from Moukden *viâ* Laoyang to Haicheng and Kaiping bisects the arc and meets the chord at right angles. At first the Japanese forces, after crossing the Yalu river, advanced into Manchuria along the eastern periphery of the arc, but so soon as they struck westward toward Haicheng, they placed themselves on the chord. The Chinese troops, on the other hand, were distributed chiefly along the sector from Moukden to Laoyang, Haicheng, and Kaiping, thirty to forty thousand being to the north of Haicheng, and twenty to twenty-five thousand to the south of that place. Hence, when the Japanese obtained possession of Haicheng, they cut the Chinese line of defence in two. Moreover, at Haicheng they were within 75 miles of Shisanshan, whereas the Chinese at Moukden were 135 miles from the same place. In other words, the Japanese, by advancing 75 miles farther west along the chord of the arc, could easily intercept the China-ward retreat of all the Moukden and Laoyang forces. That has been the strategy of the Japanese generals throughout the war. They have always succeded in taking a position such that, while having direct access to the enemy's front, they also threatened his line of retreat. Previously, however, the manœuvre had been carried out on a small scale in connection with the attack of some particular fortress or entrenchment, but in Shinking the plan was extended so as to embrace the whole field of immediate action. It is true that to obtain the position at Haicheng the Japanese accepted large strategical risks. Lieut.-General Katsura's march from Suiyen to that place exposed him to a concerted attack from north and south that might have proved very troublesome. But Field-Marshal Yamagata, to whom the programme is understood to be due, based his calculations on the qualities hitherto shown by the enemy. With Chinese for adversaries he doubtless felt safe in dispensing with precautions essential in the face of a more enterprising foe. The Chinese, however, though they failed to prevent the cutting of their line, evidently understood the significance of the operation after it had been consummated; for two days after Katsura's capture of Haicheng, General Sung moved up from Kaiping with 10,000 men to try and recover the place, and intelligence has now been received that on the 17th instant a similar attempt was made by the Chinese forces on the north. Such details of the fight as have reached Tokyo are given elsewhere in our columns. As usual the Chinese were defeated, and as usual their fighting proved incomprehensibly innocuous to their enemies. At least ten thousand men moved against a position from three directions, struggled to recover it from a little after daylight until nightfall, and ultimately retired, having inflicted on their foes a loss of only one man killed and forty wounded. It is the most farcical fighting on record. What on earth the Chinese do with their arms of precision, how they point them and how they discharge them, we can form no conception. Apparently, in the battle on the 17th, they never ventured nearer to the Japanese outposts than from fifteen to sixteen hundred metres. Rifle fire at such a range is virtually useless. Even artillery fire cannot effect much. If the Chinese expected to recover Haicheng by standing off from it and discharging futile bullets in its direction, they must have a childish conception of warfare. At all events they were beaten back, and considering the very perfunctory character of their attempt there is little reason to expect that it will be renewed. The importance of the affair is that it radically affects the position of the Chinese in Shinking. The troops assembled to the north of Haicheng, with Laoyang for head-quarters and the defence of Moukden for final object, have now to consider the possibility of getting back to China. Their base of supply has hitherto been Newchwang (Yingkow), which must soon fall into Japanese hands. There will remain then for them only one line of retreat and means of communication with China, namely, the high road from Moukden to Pekin *via* Shanhaikwan. But we have seen that the Japanese, by moving 75 miles along the coast, can emerge upon that road at Shisanshan, whereas the Chinese must march 135 miles to reach the same place. Of course Sung's army, variously estimated at from fifteen to fifty thousand, has to be dealt with before Newchwang falls into Japanese possession. But nearly all the men now under Sung's banner are beaten soldiers. They have encountered the Japanese dither at Tomncheng, or at Kangwasai, or at Haicheng, or at Kaiping, or at Chinchow, or at Port Arthur, and already there is talk of their melting away without awaiting another conflict. In short, from whatever point we view it, the position of the Chinese armies in Shinking is very critical. If the Japanese take Yingkow and advance thence along the coast until they strike the Moukden-Shanhaikwan road at Shisanshan, we do not see what remains for the Laoyang-Moukden army except to disperse and get out of the field as speedily and secretly as possible. Inclement weather may slightly alter the complexion of affairs but apart from that contingency the Chinese are in what may be called a very tight place.—*Japan Mail.*

The *Jiji* says that General Tsang has set out with 2,000 men for the purpose of disputing the advance of the Japanese from Yungcheng, but from what place he has marched we are not told.

The telegraph has evidently been interrupted, as we surmised yesterday (24th January), for we were not placed until yesterday in receipt of a message from Lieut.-General Nodzu, dated 10.20 p.m. on the 18th. The General says that in the attack on Haicheng on the 17th the enemy's left wing numbered about 8,000 under the command of General Chang, and his right wing about 6,000 under the command of General I. Only 21 dead bodies were found upon the field, but the people of the vicinity allege that more than a hundred were killed or wounded in addition. The Chinese, after halting for the night at a distance of some miles, retreated on the following morning in a northerly direction.

It would seem that their defeat on the 17th did not deter the Chinese from further attempts to recover Haicheng, for according to a telegram from the Chief Medical Officer of the Third Division, sent from Haicheng at 7.20 p.m. on the 22nd, another force of about 10,000 men advanced against Haicheng from the north-west by the Laoyang road and commenced an attack. By 2 p.m. they were driven back, leaving over 100 dead upon the field. The Japanese casualties were 28 wounded and none killed.

In the neighbourhood of Kaiping also, the Chinese are disposed to assume the offensive in a half-hearted kind of way. The Chief of the First Division staff, telegraphing at 8.33 p.m. on the 24th, says that at 2 p.m. on that day about 10,000 of the enemy advanced from the direction of Takwei-shan, apparently to attack Kaiping, but after a brief cannonade they retreated in two columns at 4.50 p.m. in a north-westerly and northerly direction.—*Japan Mail.*

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "SHANGHAI MERCURY."]

YOKOHAMA, 26th Jan.

A telegram has been received from Kaeping, dated the afternoon of the 24th instant, from General Nogi, which states that a Chinese force of about 10,000 men, coming from the direction of Taibeigen, advanced against the Japanese outermost line of defence. Artillery only came into play on both sides, and after a while the Chinese were routed and completely demoralized by the Japanese shrapnel, retreating in two bodies, one going to the northward and another to the north-west.

YOKOHAMA, 26th January.

A telegram, dated Haichang on the night of the 22nd instant, from General Nodzu, reports that he was expecting to be re-attacked by the Chinese forces from Liaoyang; consequently the the Third Division was arranged for the defence and their plan to draw the enemy within six hundred metres was successful, when the Fifth Infantry Brigade and three batteries of artillery suddenly attacked and opened fire on the right flank of the Chinese forces, and being thus taken by complete surprise they fled in all directions in great confusion. The other infantry flank of the Japanese attacked the retreating Chinese, which very much increased

the panic amongst them. The greater part of the Chinese fled to the north-east. The prisoners taken in this action state that the campaign is conducted under the command of Tartar Generals Changshung and I. The whole force of the Chinese exceeded 12,000. The Japanese loss was only twenty-nine wounded, but the enemy's casualties are not at present fully known, except that over one hundred corpses were left on the field.

Yokohama, 31st January.

In a telegram dated Hiuntsui, 26th inst., General Nogi reports a force of 10,000 Chinese, with 200 long rifles, near Newchwang, and another force of 11,000 advancing from Tapinshan. In a further despatch, dated 28th instant, he reports that the Chinese force near Yingkow had been increased, and that the Japanese cavalry scouts were unable to proceed beyond Liopeng, the enemy having advanced along the whole line.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

The opening performance of the grand comic pantomime "Robinson Crusoe" was given by the Amateur Dramatic Club on Wednesday evening. The pantomime has been produced this season under some difficulties, alterations having had to be made in the original arrangements, and its presentation comes about a month later than was at first intended. The difficulties, however, have been overcome and the full house which assembled to witness the performance on Wednesday was enthusiastic in its applause. The success of the piece is dependent mainly on the spectacular effects, the dancing, and the comic element introduced by Mr. Brady as Crusoe's Mother. Of connected plot there is even less than usual, the original burlesque having been cut about until only shreds of it are left, and dances are introduced in the most inconsequential but pleasing manner. The first scene is laid in the port of Hull, where a gathering of Sailors, Dockmen, Fishwives, Peasants, etc., is discovered, who sing the opening chorus and give a country dance, followed by a very pretty dance by three little girls, **Ruby** Skertchly, Mabel Seth, and Eliza Moore. Snooks, a publican, then appears, and enunciates some sentiments as to the advantages of drinking and the folly of working, with the result that the sailors put his maxims into practice and enter his hostlery to help themselves to his stock, leaving Mr. Snooks ruined in his fortunes. Perky is a barmaid and Polly, Snooks's daughter, the former having an ambition to become the latter's stepmother. Will Atkins, the head of a smuggling band, is in love with Polly, but that young lady's affections are bestowed upon Robinson Crusoe, while Atkins is adored by Mrs. Crusoe. The second scene is a street in Hull where Polly and Robinson Crusoe are interrupted in the midst of a love scene by the appearance of a villainous looking press gang under command of a lilliputian midshipmite, who carry Crusoe off. News arrives that the ship in which he sails has been wrecked and Polly and others resolve to go and seek him on his desert island. The third scene is laid in Polly's room, where a skirt dance is given by Mabel Seth and Ruby Skertchly. How the little girls came there and why they danced did not appear, but they were a picture of loveliness and danced superbly. After they have left Polly appears and commences packing for her journey. She is joined by Mrs. Crusoe, who insists on accompanying her, and some very amusing play ensues. The band struck up "Simple Pimple" for Mr. Brady, but that was not in the book and the invitation was declined. His song "My sweet face" was, however, equally as comical. The packing finished Mrs. Crusoe retires to another room while Polly lies down on the couch and falls asleep. Will Atkins with a band of myrmidons has conceived a plot for abducting Polly, but Mrs. Crusoe circumvents it by changing places with the young lady, and so gets carried off herself, but only to return almost immediately with the lugubrious explanation that it is "no go."

After the interval we are introduced to Crusoe's Island, where three young ladies—Miss Humphreys, Miss Alves, and Miss Anita d'Almada—are discovered executing a most enchanting fan dance. After this the action of the play proceeds, Friday with his comical dancing keeping the audience in roars of laughter. Subsequently we have another dance by young ladies, the Spanish dance, by Miss Humphreys, Miss Alves, Miss A. d'Almada, and Miss Carvalho. Then the party from Hull arrives. Crusoe and Polly meet and renew their expressions of love, while Mrs. Crusoe conceives a violent affection for Friday. After three scenes on the island we are introduced in the seventh scene to Hull again, where the Mayor and his Clerk are discussing the arrangements for the reception of the wanderers, one of the items in which is the March of the Nations. The Mayor and Clerk then retire for a drink and the march takes place and brings the performance to a close.

The characters were as follows:—

Robinson Crusoe	Mr. G. Balloch.
Will Atkins	Mr. J. D. Lapraik.
Man Friday	Mr. G. A. Caldwell.
Snooks	Mr. C. H. Grace.
King of the Cannibal Island	Mr. H. Hayward.
His Prime Minister	Lieut. Brabazon, R.N.
His Queen	Mr. G. C. Hayward.
Friday's Father	Mr. Focken.
The Mayor of Hull	Mr. W. S. Frowd, R.N.
His Clerk	Mr. W. Blaynay.
A News-boy	Mr. Sliman.
Perky	Mrs. D. E. Brown.
Polly	Mrs. Hagen.
Mrs. Crusoe	Mr. G. G. Brady.

Fishwives, Peasants, &c., &c.—Mesdames Brewer, Denson, Humphreys, More, and Reeves. Misses Alves, Almada, B. Aitken, M. Aitken, Carvalho, Clement, Humphreys, Moore, Sayer, Seth, Skertchly, and Wallace.

Myrmidons.—Messrs. Berger, Blaynay, Crow, Frowd, S. W. Hayward, Measor, and Sharp.

Press Gang.—Midshipman Eric Smith. Messrs. Armstrong, Aitken, F. Grimble, W. Humphreys, Reeves, and Scott.

Sailors, Dockmen, Cannibals, &c., &c.—Messrs. Brewer, Grimes, Hayward, C. Hance, J. Hance, A. Humphreys, E. W. Maitland, A. C. More, S. Moore, Sayer, Seth, Ivon Smith, Skertchley, Schuster, Waymouth, R. Witchell, J. Witchell, and Welman.

Mrs. D. E. Brown, as *Perky*, played the part of the pert girl with animation and spirit and her singing was excellent. Her song "Alack a day" was loudly encored, and although Mrs. Brown twice appeared to bow her acknowledgements the audience would not be satisfied without a repetition. Her duet with *Snooks* (Mr. C. H. Grace) was also one of the musical treats of the evenings. Mrs Hagen, as *Polly*, was also excellent, when she had support; but when she occupied the stage alone her action was slightly constrained, due possibly to nervousness. Her singing, however, was faultless, especially in the song "Close thou gentle sleep," which was rendered with great sweetness. *Robinson Crusoe* was represented by Mr. G. Balloch, who gave evidence of some ability as an actor and whose musical abilities, though not very high, are sufficient for the part. As *Will Atkins* Mr. J. D. Lapraik did not appear to such advantage as we have seen him on former occasions, the burlesque of the heavy villain being apparently not quite in his line of humour. Mr. G. A. Caldwell gave an inimitable rendering of the part of *Man Friday* and his wonderful dancing was something not to be forgotten. Mr. C. H. Grace appeared as *Snooks*, the publican. From such an experienced actor and capable singer as Mr. Grace we expect full justice to any part he essays, and the only criticism that occurs to us to pass on his performance of Wednesday night is that he looked and acted more like a squire than a publican. We must not omit to mention his splendid rendering of the song from "Utopia," "A bright and beautiful English girl." Mr. H. Hayward gave a fair representation of the *King of the Cannibal Island* and had a very brilliant and imposing queen in the person of Mr. G. C. Hayward. Lieut. Brabazon, R.N., worked energetically as the Prime Minister, and Mr. Focken as *Friday's Father* was conspicuous by his wonderful get up. Mr. W. S. Frowd, R.N., Mr. W. Blaynay, and Mr. Sliman were all satisfactory in the small parts they undertook. The greater part of the comic business was of course supplied by Mr. G. G. Brady as *Mrs. Crusoe*. Mr. Brady was irresistibly funny and kept the audience in laughter all the time he was on the stage.

Of several of the incidental dances mention has already been made. The song and clever dance by the nigger-boys D. Skertchly, G. Sayer, J. Smith, E Smith, S. Moore, R. Witchell, and A. Humphreys should also be noted as one of the features of the show. The *pièce de resistance*, however, was the March of Nations, which brought the performance to a close. As a spectacular display this was really splendid and we have heard the opinion expressed that it was even prettier than the similar March which was placed on the Drury Lane stage two years ago. The dresses were correct in the national details and rich in appearance, while the intricate evolutions of the march were executed with perfect precision, not a single hitch occurring. The various countries were represented as follows:—

America	Mr. E. A. Measor	Mrs. Reeves.
France	Mr. F. Maitland	Miss Humphreys.
Spain	Mr. S. W. Hayward	Miss Alves.
Russia	Mr. W. Armstrong	Miss Bessie Aitken.
Germany	Mr. W. E. Crow	Miss Wallace.
Switzerland	Mr. F. Grimble	Miss Clement.
Portugal	Capt. Welman	Miss Carvalho.
Turkey	Mr. C. Reeves	Miss Sayers.
Austria	Mr. A. Sharp	Mrs. Brewer.
Italy	Mr. A. More	Miss A. d'Almada.
Canada	Mr. F. Waymouth	Mrs. More.
Australia	Mr. S. Moore	Miss E. Moore.
India	Mr. E. Berger	Master J. Hance.
Hongkong	Mr. Eric Smith	Ruby Skertchly.
England	Mr. D. K. Sliman	Mrs. H. Humphreys.
Scotland	Mr. D. Skertchley	Miss M. Aitken.
Ireland	Mr. G. Scott	Miss Z. d'Almeda.
Wales	Mr. C. Hance	Miss Seth.
China	Mr. G. C. Hayward	Mr. H. E. Hayward.

In the case of Germany and Austria the national hymns were sung by Mr. W. E. Crow and Mrs. Brewer respectively and Miss M. Aitken and her partner gave a Scottish dance, which was very prettily and gracefully executed.

For the arrangement of the dances and musical drill Mr. G. A. Caldwell is responsible and cannot be too warmly congratulated on his work. The music was arranged and partly composed by Mr. J. Orange, who also conducted. The dresses, all of which were handsome, were from designs by Mr. H. W. Bird; and it is to the same gentleman that we are indebted for the illustrated cover to the book of words of the songs, on which all the principal characters are depicted. The lighting effects were in charge of Mr. H. E. Denson, and the scenery was painted by Mr. M. A. Baptista. The new drop scene which has been painted by Mr. Coughtrie was not ready for Wednesday, but will, we understand, be used for the next performance, which takes place on Monday. Mr. Coughtrie, it may be mentioned, was also the painter of the present drop scene, which has done duty now for nearly twenty years. The pianist was Mr. G. Grimble and the Band of the Rifle Brigade constituted the orchestra. The stage manager was Mr. E. W. Mitchell, who has worked indefatigably, and to him a large share of the credit for Wednesday's success is due. At the close of the performance there were loud calls for him and he had to appear before the curtain. The committee was composed as follows:—Messrs. G. A. Caldwell, C. H. Grace, E. W. Mitchell, H. Nicolle, J. Orange, G. G. Brady, Hon. Treasurer, and Capt. A. W. Miller, R.N., Hon. Secretary. The latter gentleman, we regret to learn, has for the last few weeks been debarred from taking a very active part in the work, having been confined to the house by indisposition.

It would not be correct to say that "Robinson Crusoe" surpasses previous pantomimes; in fact it would suffer in some respects from comparison, for the piece itself is about as poor in plot and dialogue as it well could be, but the staging is magnificent, the dancing perfect, and the music pleasing and tuneful, while the comic element, although weak in some parts, was well sustained generally, and the entertainment as a whole gave complete satisfaction to the audience.

The piano used was a Pleyel Grand supplied by Messrs. W. Robinson & Co.

At Kobe on the 24th January, as Miss Daisy Fitzgerald, a young lady only a year or two advanced in her teens, was proceeding up the hill to school, a Japanese man suddenly rushed out of a side turning just above the railway crossing at Sannomiya, struck her a blow across the face with his hand, and then quickly disappeared. Taken by surprise the girl could of course do nothing; there were no Europeans near and no policeman to be seen. On returning and telling her mother what had happened, Mrs. Fitzgerald made a complaint at the police station, but we fear there is little hope of the scoundrel being caught and punished. The present, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, is the first occasion that has come to our knowledge of a foreign child having been wantonly struck in the streets of Kobe.

THE PROPERTY OWNERS AND THE INSANITARY DWELLINGS ORDINANCE.

The following memorial has been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Hongkong, January 28th 1895.

To the Right Honourable The Marquess of Ripon, K.G., G.C.S.I., C.I.E., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Humble Memorial of the undersigned owners of or persons interested in leasehold premises in the colony of Hongkong sheweth as follows:—

1.—Your Memorialists are leaseholders and mortgagees of or are otherwise interested in landed property in Hongkong and include in their number the owners of the houses mentioned in the 1st and 2nd Schedules attached to a Hongkong Ordinance known as "The Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance, 1894."

2.—This Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council of Hongkong upon the 29th day of December, 1894, by the votes of the six official members of the Legislative Council against the protests and the votes of the four unofficial members of that Council, and the interests of your Memorialists are peculiarly affected by the said Ordinance.

3.—Your Memorialists desire to direct your Lordship's special attention to the 16th Section of the above-mentioned Ordinance which provides as follows:—

No Suit or Action shall be commenced or lie, or if commenced be continued against the Sanitary Board or its officers or the Permanent Committee thereof or any person acting under the authority of the Sanitary Board or the Permanent Committee for any loss or damage incurred by or resulting to any person by reason—

(*a*) Of the removal of the occupants of any house mentioned in the 1st and 2nd Schedules hereto.

(*b*) Of the shutting up or closing of any such house or any part thereof.

(*c*) Of the destruction or removal of or of the damage to any buildings, walls, furniture, mezzanine floors, cocklofts, partitions or articles in any such house or curtilage closed or disinfected by orders of the Sanitary Board, provided such destruction, removal, or damage occurred during the prevalence of the bubonic plague or during any operations which were necessary or deemed necessary by the Board for the cleansing and disinfecting of any such houses, or,

(*d*) Of any loss of rent whatever in respect of any such house, or,

(*e*) Of the continued possession of any such house and curtilage or any part thereof by the Sanitary Board or the Permanent Committee thereof pending the carrying out of the provisions of this Ordinance in respect thereof.

4.—As your Memorialists are well aware that your Lordship has been made fully acquainted with the facts connected with the visitation of bubonic plague with which this colony was unhappily afflicted last year, they do not purpose setting out these facts at any length, more especially as they were fully described in a despatch from His Excellency Governor Sir William Robinson addressed to your Lordship upon the 20th day of June last and which was published in Hongkong on the 1st of September last.

5.—As, however, certain dates may be of importance when considering the statements of your Memorialists hereinafter set out, they would respectfully remind your Lordship that the first official proclamation made under the Health Ordinance of 1887 with reference to the plague was issued upon the 10th May, 1894, and that this proclamation was revoked upon the 3rd September, 1894, while the Ordinance with reference to which your Memorialists are now addressing your Lordship was passed on the 29th December, 1894, and it was only on the 5th January, 1895, that the Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board notified the owners of houses mentioned in the 1st Schedule to Ordinance 15 of 1894 that they could obtain possession of their houses by applying to the Captain Superintendent of Police.

6.—Upon the 26th September, 1894, an Ordinance known as "The Taipingshan Resumption Ordinance, 1894," was passed by the Legislative Council and by this last mentioned Ordinance certain lots of the land in the Taipingshan district of the City of Victoria were resumed by the Government of the colony and revested in the Crown as from the 1st day of June, 1894, and it was provided that full and fair compensation should be paid to the owners of the premises resumed and to all persons having any right or interest therein, such compensation to be determined by a Board of Arbitrators as mentioned in the Ordinance, and all sums of money awarded by the Board as compensation are to bear interest at the rate of 7 per cent. from 1st June, 1894, until payment by the Government to the parties entitled thereto or under certain circumstances until payment into the Supreme Court.

7.—The owners of the premises situate outside of the area resumed by the Government under the Taipingshan Resumption Ordinance cannot claim compensation under that Ordinance, but the houses directly affected by "The Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance of 1894" have been taken out of the hands of the owners by the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board for the benefit of the Colony, and as regards the premises mentioned in the 1st Schedule to the last mentioned Ordinance the owners were not permitted to reoccupy their premises until the 5th January, 1895, although, as will be hereafter pointed out, the said premises were declared to have been disinfected and to be in a sanitary condition many months before that date.

8.—The houses mentioned in "The Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance, 1894," were all built in compliance with the provisions of "The Public Health Ordinance, 1887," and of "The Building Ordinance No. 15 of 1894," or in compliance with the Ordinances for the time being in force, and upon completion the owners received the necessary certificates from the authorised Examining Officer and from the Surveyor-General or other official whose duty it was to grant such certificates, but the houses were closed by the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board during the plague epidemic last year, the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board claiming to have power to do so under the by-laws made by them upon the 11th May and 31st May, 1894.

9.—Your Memorialists are advised that such by-laws were not strictly in accordance with law, and that the subsequent action of the Permanent Committee in turning out the tenants, destroying all the internal fittings, and closing the premises was illegal, but Ordinance No. 5 of 1894 was afterwards passed to remove doubts as to the validity of these by-laws and your Memorialists are by no means desirous of seeing any purely technical objection raised to the action of the Sanitary Board in taking possession of and disinfecting the premises at a time when the colony was being devastated by the plague and when prompt measures had to be taken to prevent its further spread in the colony.

10.—The complaint that your Memorialists have to make with reference to the Permanent Committee is not that they improperly or acting *ultra vires* took possession of the above-mentioned premises, but that afterwards, when the premises referred to had been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and when the colony was free from plague, they refused to return them to the owners until the latter had agreed to give undertakings in writing as to the future occupation of such premises, which undertakings the Permanent Committee had no right whatever to demand, and which they have now by their action practically admitted to have been illegal, and with respect to which Section 16 of "The Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance 1894," has now been passed.

11.—Your Memoralists are advised that but for the protection afforded to the Sanitary Board by the above-mentioned Section 16 the owners of the closed houses would undoubtedly have a legal claim against the members of that body for the damages they have sustained in consequence of their illegal action in refusing to allow them to reoccupy the premises after they had been cleaned and disinfected and were in a fit condition to be again inhabited, and they humbly submit to your Lordship that if the Colonial Government wishes to protect the members of the Sanitary Board from legal proceedings being taken against them by those who have suffered serious loss through their high-handed proceedings, the Government should itself take over the liability that has been incurred by the Sanitary Board, and that the whole colony, for whose benefit and in whose interests the members of the Sanitary Board are considered to have been acting, should share equally with the individual owners of the premises closed the damages that have been suffered.

12.—Your Lordship will probably have been furnished with a report of the meeting of the Legislative Council at which "The Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance, 1894," was passed, but as your Memorialists consider the remarks made by the learned Attorney-General when moving the second reading of the Bill as calculated to mislead those who are not intimately acquainted with the colony and with the conditions upon which property in the city of Victoria is held, they trust your Lordship will pardon them if they quote a few of the phrases made use of by the Attorney-General and attempt to explain how they are calculated to unfairly prejudice the holders of the closed premises. The Attorney-General is reported to have said: "And I take it no one will gainsay that this Council has a perfect right in its legislative capacity to say to any man in the colony: 'You have no right to use your property in such a manner as to endanger the lives and safety of your fellow colonists; you have no right so to use your place as to make it a hot-bed in which the germs of disease and plague which may be brought in from another place may thrive until they become a very dangerous thing to the colony and until we have the plague rampant in our midst,' and this Council has a right in its legislative capacity to say 'we will take that property away from you temporarily until you have restored it to a proper condition and that it shall be handed back to you in such a state that it will not be a public danger.' For any man to say, 'Compensate me for having done so is absurd.'" With reference to the foregoing extract your Memorialists would remark that the owners of the closed houses have never asked to be compensated because their property was taken from them for the purpose of being put into a sanitary condition. They only ask that they should be compensated for the losses they have sustained through the absolutely illegal action of the Sanitary Board in refusing to return their property after it had been disinfected and cleaned. A stranger to the colony might naturally conclude that the premises mentioned in the schedules to this Ordinance were the only premises cleaned and disinfected by the order of the Permanent Committee, whereas nothing would be more incorrect. To say nothing of the 348 houses in Taipingshan which were closed and have been forcibly resumed, the General Post Office, the Land Office, and other Government buildings, as well as numerous business offices and stores in the centre of the city, were cleaned and disinfected for very cogent reasons and possession was at once given up by the Permanent Committee as soon as the disinfecting was completed, but because the Permanent Committee apparently considered that the Public Health Ordinance then in force was not sufficiently stringent as regards dwelling houses, they sought to make the owners of the closed houses personally undertake duties which were not laid upon them by law and which it was absolutely out of their power to properly give effect to.

The Attorney-General further on, in addressing the Council, is reported to have said: "It is possible that in some instances the Sanitary Board may have gone, I do not know that it has done so, a little beyond what they would have done if they had had more time. But without emolument, in a time of great danger, the Sanitary Board, after being lethargic for I do not know how long, suddenly awoke and rose to a sense of its duty and did some admirable work and closed all the houses which are in the schedules, and I shall ask you when the Bill comes before the Committee to say that, having done their best for the benefit of the community in a time of great emergency, they should be prevented from being attacked by the lawyers on every legal or technical point it is possible for lawyers to take in regard to their conduct, and I shall have to point out to you the clauses which will protect the Sanitary Board later on."

Subsequently, referring to overcrowding, the Attorney-General said: "If you had a man here who could inspect these houses and stop this state of matters it would be a different thing. But there is no such being in existence, and as long

as you give an opportunity of overcrowding by means of these mezzanine floors and cubicles, so long will you have overcrowding, &c." With reference to these latter remarks your Memorialists would point out that it is not necessarily the landlords who put in the mezzanine floors and cubicles to which the Attorney-General referred. A landlord having once let his house has no right to be visiting and inspecting it at all hours of the day and night, and the only possible way of preventing the erection and maintenance of illegal floors and partitions is by appointing proper sanitary inspectors with statutory power to visit and inspect the various buildings from time to time, and the same remarks apply to the number of persons inhabiting a building. By the Health Ordinance of 1887 the Sanitary Board had power to make by-laws on this subject and did so, but the by-laws were not brought into force as a coolie strike was threatened, and the Government are now attempting to compel the owners of houses to carry into effect what the Government with all the executive power at its command found impossible. A landlord whose whole time may be occupied in mercantile or other pursuits, is certainly not in a position to personally check the number of persons allowed by the lessees to frequent houses belonging to him, nor hitherto has any such duty been attempted to be thrown upon him by law.

13.—When the Bill was in Committee the Attorney-General is reported to have said: "Section 3 applies to property the owners of which have refused to do anything, they say 'the Sanitary Board is holding our property and we will not do anything.'" Your Memorialists would point out that this does not fairly represent the position taken up by the landlords. What in effect they said was: "We have built our houses in compliance with the Public Health Ordinance and the Building Ordinance, you say that they have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and we ask therefore that they should be returned to us; we shall be amenable to the law, but the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board has no right whatever to alter the law, and should any alteration in our houses be required that should be effected by Ordinance in a legal manner; the conditions landlords are asked to agree to are such that it would be utterly impossible to enforce them and we will not give any undertaking which the Permanent Committee has no right whatever to demand." Some of your Memorialists, while refusing to sign the conditions suggested, offered, at their own expense, to do anything that the Permanent Committee might require in the way of alterations or repairs or to allow the Permanent Committee to effect the alterations and repairs at the expense of the landlords; but their letters to the Chairman of the Permanent Committee were disregarded and no reply whatever was vouchsafed to them.

14.—Your Memorialists would urge most respectfully but most strongly upon your Lordship that the acts of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board, having been adopted and ratified by the Colonial Government, their acts may be considered as the acts of the Government and the latter should make compensation to those who have suffered by such acts. Whether or not any binding undertaking was given by the Government at the time the Taipingshan Resumption Ordinance was passed that the owners of closed houses outside the resumed area should be compensated for the losses they had incurred in consequence of their houses having been closed for the general good, it is quite clear that the unofficial members of Council were under that impression when they consented to the Taipingshan Resumption Ordinance becoming law, and supposed at that time that both sets of landlords would be treated alike; and your Memorialists were certainly under this impression when the then Acting Attorney-General stated the matter of compensation to owners of closed houses outside the Taipingshan District was under the consideration of the Government.

15.—Your Memorialists must again call attention to the incorrectness of the remarks of the Attorney-General when he said: "What the Permanent Committee did was this, where a medical certificate was given that a house was unfit for habitation, it was closed until it was made fit. As soon as it was fit for habitation it was given back;" and your Memorialists think it right to set out *verbatim* the printed notice that was served upon the owners of the closed houses. It was as follows:—

Permanent Committee, Sanitary Board,
Hongkong 189 .

Your house No. Street been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and the Permanent Committee are prepared to permit to be reoccupied on your undertaking in writing as follows:—

(*a*)—Not to allow the ground floor to be occupied as living room until the floor——been re-made to a depth of 9 inches of material impermeable to gas or water.

(*b*)—Not to allow the basement to be used as living room.

(*c*)—Not to allow a greater number of persons to occupy the house than in the proportion of one adult to every 21 square feet of floor space and 300 cubic feet of air space.

(*d*)—Not to allow mezzanine floors except in strict accordance with the Building Ordinance of 1889.

If you accept the above conditions please sign below and return this paper.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

For the Permanent Committee.

and as above stated the first time that the owners were notified that they could obtain possession of their houses without agreeing to these conditions was upon the 5th January, 1895.

16.—Your Memorialists are convinced that the steady progress of Hongkong, which from being a mere barren rock has now become one of the leading shipping ports in the Empire, is owing to a great extent to the belief of those residing there in the constitutional administration of the colony, and to their belief that the Home Government would be certain to negative or disallow any Colonial Ordinance which either in letter or spirit was repugnant to parliamentary legislation in England, and they cannot believe that an Ordinance which would have the effect of confiscating the property of individual members of the community, without giving them full and fair compensation for the loss they suffer in consequence, would meet with your Lordship's approval and they would point out that the individual loss is not the only point to be considered. Should such a law as Ordinance No. 15 of 1894 be allowed to remain without modification, no investors in landed property in Hongkong could in the future feel any confidence in this form of security if liable to be deprived of it for an indefinite time in the event of an epidemic unfortunately visiting the colony. The knowledge that the owners of capital are liable to be treated in this way can only operate most prejudicially for all those interested in the growth of this rapidly expanding colony, as it will necessarily deter capitalists from investing either as owners or mortgagees of leaseholds in Hongkong, and will cause those who have already invested to withdraw their money at the earliest possible moment. The shock to confidence and good faith which the confiscation clause of this Ordinance must cause will inevitably tend to drive the investing public away and thus cause most serious detriment to the colony.

17.—In conclusion your Memorialists would earnestly beg your Lordship to consider the heavy losses the owners of the closed houses, in common with the other inhabitants of the colony, suffered in consequence of the plague, which affected more or less the income of every resident in Hongkong, and taking into consideration the facts that the plague was introduced into Hongkong from the mainland of China, that it was enabled to obtain the hold it did upon the native population, chiefly owing to the insanitary condition of the drainage and the blocking up of the outlets of the main sewers by the Government Reclamation works for weeks during the hot weather, and to the neglect of the Government or the Sanitary Board or both to enforce sanitary conditions amongst the Chinese residents for some fifty years, and that whatever was done by the Government or by the Sanitary Board with reference to the closing of these houses was done, not simply for the benefit of the owners, but for the benefit of every inhabitant of the colony, they respectfully ask that you will give the necessary directions that an Ordinance shall be forthwith introduced adopting the views expressed by the non-official members of Council when Ordinance 15 of 1894 was passed by the official votes, and giving the owners of the closed houses full compensation for all losses and damages they have suffered in consequence of the arbitrary and illegal action of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board.

And your Memorialists, &c.

SUPREME COURT.

4th February.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. G. WISE,
ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.

A CRIMINAL OR CIVIL CASE?

Li Yui brought an action against Hü Yuk Shang to recover $143.58 for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. Ho Wyson appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Mr. C. D. Wilkinson's office) represented the defendant.

Mr. Ho Wyson said that the defendant was in the employ of the plaintiff, who kept a shop. Defendant was a salesman and on several occasions he took away goods saying that he would sell them to certain persons and undertaking to bring back the money. He had not, however, handed the plaintiff any money for the goods.

His Lordship—What are you suing the defendant for? What is your form of action? As far as this writ goes it is for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. Ho Wyson—That is the claim.

His Lordship—No, no. Here is an employé of yours who takes goods and sells them with your knowledge, and that is not "sold and delivered." It is either embezzlement by a clerk or larceny. You did not sell these goods to your clerk.

Mr. Ho Wyson—He said he sold them.

His Lordship—Yes, I know, but you did not sell them to him. You must alter your writ.

Mr. Ho Wyson—He has acknowledged that the money is owing.

His Lordship—Where is the acknowledgment?

Mr. Ho Wyson—It was simply a verbal acknowledgment.

Mr. Grist—The acknowledgment must be in writing.

His Lordship—You sue the clerk for goods sold and delivered. That must be wrong. He did not buy from you.

Mr. Ho Wyson—He took them away.

His Lordship—Yes, and he acknowledged it, but that is not "goods sold and delivered." Your claim is utterly wrong.

Mr. Ho Wyson—Will you give me leave to amend?

His Lordship—How are you going to amend? Proceed in the Police Court; that is the proper place. He received the money and did not account for it. What is that?

Mr. Ho Wyson—We cannot say that he actually received the money.

His Lordship—Well, how are you going to amend?

Mr. Ho Wyson—For goods appropriated by the defendant.

His Lordship—That is rather a vague term. This is not a criminal court.

Mr. Ho Wyson—There is the verbal acknowledgment undertaking to pay for the goods.

His Lordship—Undertaking to pay somebody else's debts.

Mr. Grist—If the defendant has undertaken to pay for these goods the undertaking must be in writing. Of course he denies that he undertook to pay for them.

His Lordship (to Mr. Ho Wyson)—Well, if you go on with it I can clearly see the end of it.

Mr. Ho Wyson—The defendant was bailee.

His Lordship—He is not bailee, because he took the goods for sale with your knowledge. He is your servant.

Mr. Ho Wyson—Before he took the goods away he entered into the books items of certain goods sold to certain persons and he said he would being back the money.

His Lordship—You cannot prove that he received the money.

Mr. Ho Wyson—We are not in a position to prove that.

His Lordship—I will give you to Friday to consider the thing or dismiss the action at once.

Mr. Ho Wyson—I prefer the matter to stand over until Friday.

His Lordship—Very well.

Mr. Grist—Your lordship will give me costs?

His Lordship—Oh, certainly.

TAIPINGSHAN RESUMPTION ARBITRATION BOARD.

Before the full Board, composed of His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Chief Justice (Chairman), Mr. E. H. Alford, and Mr. W. Danby.

AWARDS ON CLAIMS 23A, 27, & 36.

Yesterday morning awards were made by the Board in the following cases: Claim 23 A, Inland lot 265 C. Amount orginally claimed, in respect to two lots, $22,800; amended and reduced to to $12,841. Amount of Government offer $10,000: amount awarded, $11,000. This was a claim of the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao steamboat Co. Mr. V. H. Deacon appeared on behalf of the Company.

Claim 27, Inland lots 592 and 593. Amount originally claimed, $90,826; amended to $88,797. Government offer was $65,000; amount awarded, $79,000. Mr. V. H. Deacon also appeared for the claimants in this case.

Claim 36, Inland lot 404, remaining portion, including houses 72 and 74; Bridges Street and 1 to 4, Rozario street. Amount originally claimed for the whole, $10,500; amount now claimed for the two houses in Bridges Street, $5,000; amount offered by the Government, $7,915; amount now awarded, in respect to 72 and 74, Bridges Street, $3,400 and in respect to 1 to 4, Rozario Street, $5,300; total amount awarded being $3,700. In respect of this last claim M. A. Baptista was the executor. Yune Man Choi is the mortgagee in respect to the houses 1 and 2, Rozario Street. Lung Kwing Pai has a life estate on the houses 1 and 2, Rozario Street and Lo Pui and Lo Kai are the reversionary owners.

Mr. Deacon—Your Worship gives costs in my cases, I presume; they carry substantial amounts.

His Lordship.—Yes, I think so.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Thursday afternoon a meeting of the Sanitary Board was held. There were present:—Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police (Chairman), Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Mr. R. K. Leigh; Dr. P. B. C. Ayres, Colonial Surgeon, and Dr. W. Hartigan. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mr. Hugh McCallum (Secretary) and approved.

THE MANAGEMENT OF SWINE DEPOTS.

The SECRETARY read the following letter:—

Colonial Secretary's Office.
19th January, 1895.

To the Secretary of the Sanitary Board.

Sir,—In reply to your letters Nos. 2 and 4 of the 4th and 8th inst. respectively I am directed to state for the information of the Sanitary Board that His Excellency has decided that the sheep and pig depôts should be managed by the Board and that a uniform charge of five cents per head for every animal passing through the depôts should be imposed. I am to point out that the cost of the buildings and land amounts to $37,590 and not $20,000 as stated by the Committee in their report.

His Excellency will be obliged if the Board will be so good as to make the necessary arrangements for opening the depôts on these conditions at as early a date as practicable. I am to add that His Excellency is of opinion that the Board should undertake the management of the cattle depôts on the expiry of the present farm.

The other matters mentioned in the report will receive due consideration.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Mr. FRANCIS thought that the best thing to do was to publish a notification to the proprietors of private depots informing them that on a certain day—say the 1st April—the land would be no longer licensed. They must have some notice in order to make the necessary preparations.

The SECRETARY replied that the places had not been licensed inasmuch as they were not in a fit and proper condition.

Mr FRANCIS said that although there were no regulating by-laws in force, of course the places could not be closed if the proprietors liked to keep them in proper order. As the law stood at present the Board was bound to license the places if they were in a sanitary state. He thought the matter had better be referred to a Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said he should think it would take a couple of months before the Board would be able to act in the matter.

Mr. FRANCIS said there were no regulations to guide the members of the Board and to determine what was best to be done.

It was decided, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN seconded by Mr. FRANCIS, that notices should be sent out informing the proprietors of the depots that the licences would not be issued to insanitary premises after 1st April.

IMPERMEABLE FLOORS.

The following letter from Messrs. Palmer and Turner had been received:—

Hongkong, 17th January, 1895.

H. McCallum Esq., Secretary, Sanitary Board.

Dear Sir,—With reference to nature of impermeable floors and basements, we note that the Board will be satisfied wtth 8½ inches of concrete and ½ inch cement rendering. We would suggest an improvement on this flooring, viz. 7 inches of lime concrete and 2 inches of concrete mixed with ½ inch cement and 1½ inches lime. This will make a floor that will not break up, as we fear any rendering with cement will be sure to do. The late Surveyor-General Mr. Price used a small proportion of cement in the concrete of some of the high level roads with great success.

We shall be glad to know if the Board will pass a floor made as suggested.—Yours faithfully,

PALMER & TURNER.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. R. K. Leigh—I consider a floor made as proposed by Messrs. Palmer and Turner would answer the requirements very well if finished off smooth.

Dr Ho Kai—I agree with Mr. Leigh.

Mr. J. J. Francis—I agree.

Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works.—I agree with Mr. Leigh.

It was resolved to accept the plan of Messrs Palmer and Turner.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE CITY.

The SECRETARY read the report of the Assistant Surveyor on the condition of house drains at blocks 186, 187, 191, and 192, and upon this Dr. Hartigan suggested that the recommendations of the Surveyor be carried out at once.

Mr. LEIGH moved that the Government should supply a copy of the last drainage plan, as the new drainage system was now practically finished. Then it would be possible to determine which blocks to choose first in the draining regulations according to the position and capacity of the outfall. As things were now they could not tell which way the drains ran and where the outfall was, but if they had a proper plan they could see at a glance where they were draining and what blocks they were taking. It was highly desirable that all blocks of buildings which are now draining into the old storm water drains should be diverted into the new sewers. He thought the Board ought to have as much information and knowledge on the subject as the Director of Public Works.

Mr. COOPER said that the Board had plans of the old drains and from an inspection of it one could easily see what blocks went into the old drains.

Mr. LEIGH moved that the matter stand over until the new plan was received.

Dr. HARTIGAN seconded.

Mr. FRANCIS moved that the reports be referred back and that the surveyors be requested to state into what sewers the blocks at present drain and where the outfall is, then the Board would have informaton in respect of each particular block.

Mr. LEIGH seconded this motion.

Mr, COOPER said that the facts were of a very serious nature indeed. In some of the property there were no drains at all and he knew of one backyard where there stood six inches of sewage. If things were going to continue like that all he could say was that they were a disgrace to the Board. He moved that the owners of the property be called upon to carry out the drainage of the premises and to remedy the defects pointed out by the surveyor. The property near the Post Office and the Supreme Court had not been drained according to the by-laws and if the Board did not take active steps to have the old drains in the centre of the town remedied the effects this summer would be as bad as they were last summer. The Board would then be called upon to take extraordinary measures.

The CHAIRMAN fully agreed with the amendment proposed by Mr. Francis and he thought it would be better if in all future cases the fullest information were geiven. He also though it would be better to deal with these particular blocks to-day as the papers had been in circulation a very considerable time and the Board did not want a better authority than the Director of Public Works as to the information.

Mr. LEIGH said it was only a question which block should be taken first as there were many bad spots in Hongkong. It was only fair that they should know what blocks were being authorised to be put in proper order and where they drained into. He inquired from whom the surveyors got their instructions to inspect the various blocks and who selected the blocks to which attention was first to paid.

Mr. Cooper replied that when the surveyors first started work he was acting as Vice-President of the Board. He was fully empowered to give instructions to the surveyors to carry out the decisions of the Board. The surveyors asked him whether they had better stop and he said: "Well, the Board has done Ice House Lane and you had better do Pedder's Street and take the whole drainage out.'

Mr. FRANCIS—You have no power at all to act except as the mouth piece of the Board.

The CHAIRMAN—We cannot have this side current of conversation going on.

It was then moved by Mr. COOPER and seconded by Mr. FRANCIS, "That the owners be called on to redrain and amend the defects pointed out by the surveyor and that a further report be obtained as to 50, 52, 64, and 68, Queen's Road Central, and secondly, that in all future cases a report be made as to each block, into what sewer or sewers the houses now drain, where the sewers have their outfall, into what sewer it is proposed to divert the drainage, and where is the outfall."

This resolution was carried unanimously.

A CASE OF SMALLPOX.

The SECRETARY reported that there had been one case of smallpox. The patient was admitted into the hospital and after a few days the case proved to be one of smallpox.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The SECRETARY reported that the death rate for the week ended 19th January was 19.3 per 1,000 as compared with 17 the corresponding week last year. Appended to the statistics were the following minutes:—

Dr. Hartigan.—The death recorded from typhoid fever is the feature of most importance in this return. It occurred in the Tung Wah Hospital and the deceased was seen by the Colonial Surgeon. The man went to the hospital himself. He said he came from the neighbourhood of the Central Police Station, but neither the street nor the house is known.

With respect to the letter concerning the making of average weekly mortality comparisons through a number of years, Mr. MCCALLUM said that it would be a very difficult thing to do and would take a long time and might not prove satisfactory when undertaken, because of the defective statistics of farther than five years back. After some discussion by all the members of the Board it was thought that a sufficiently satisfactory result, for most practical purposes, would be secured by determining the average monthly rates during the last five years, which Mr. COOPER thought could be done within a couple of months.

LAMENTABLE OCCURRENCE ON THE "KAISAR-I-HIND."

THREE LIVES LOST.

FATAL HEROISM OF AN OFFICER.

A deplorable scene was witnessed by the passengers and crew on the *Kaisar-i-Hind* on Sunday, the 20th January, when the vessel was about 85 miles N.E. of Acheen Point, Sumatra. A young Lascar sailor named Fouger deliberately threw himself overboard and in the attempt to save him the second officer, Mr. A. J. Cooper, and an A. B. named John Foster sacrificed their lives. Up to the time of this lamentable occurrence the voyage from Bombay had been an exceptionally pleasant one. The weather was beautifully fine—except at Colombo where rain fell heavily and where the passengers from England per *Valetta* were taken on board—and the sea quite calm. At 10.30 on Sunday morning the whole of the officers and the majority of the crew mustered, as is customary, on the quarter deck. The company numbered about 125 altogether. Nearly all the passengers were on deck enjoying the benefits of the warm sunshine and a gentle breeze. Some were whiling away the few minutes there were to spare before church service lolling lazily in deck chairs, smoking, chatting, and joking, while a few of the more serious were wrapped in silent musing. Then happened the lamentably sad tragedy which cast a gloom over the whole ship. At 10.30 that awful cry "Man overboard" was raised by a steward who saw a Lascar struggling

in the water. Immediately everybody took up the cry and the whole of the passengers rushed aft. The second officer, Mr. A. J. Cooper, was talking to a friend at the time, and without even slipping off his frock coat he heroically plunged into the water. The engines were at once stopped by the captain and then reversed. The chief officer was instantly at his post supervising the lowering of the boat, and almost simultaneously with the plunge of the second officer the signal life buoy and the "Holmes's light" were thrown into the sea. But unfortunately there was too much confusion. Every man on board was willing to lend a helping hand, but in many instances the willingness unwittingly resulted in over anxiety for the safety of the second officer, than whom no one on the ship was more esteemed. In consequence of the rush of the passengers, stewards, and Lascars too many people congregated where only few were wanted and the chief officer was quite unable to make his voice heard over the hubbub that ensued. This too hasty desire—a natural one, no doubt—to give aid ended in a very serious blunder. A few seconds after the cry was raised an emergency boat manned by the fourth officer, Mr. E. J. McBarnett, and five A. B.'s named J. Foster, C. W. Adams, G. Bungay, D. Sullivan, and A. Edwards, was lowered on the port or weather side. There was, however, too much excitement on board, and as the boat touched the water someone too hastily unhooked the forward tackle and the aft tackle was allowed to remain fast. A cross sea was running at the time and an alarming accident was inevitable. The forward part dipped into the water and the waves leapt into the boat, which almost immediately swamped. Edwards managed to cling hold of a rope and climb up the side of the ship, but all the other men were hurled into the water and three of them were actually under the boat. The fourth officer quickly regained the deck by pulling himself up with a rope and without any hesitation he ran across to the starboard side and entered the second emergency boat. He was followed by the fifth officer, Mr. D. J. Beaumont, two A. B.'s and two Lascars, one of whom was the father of the suicide. This boat was quickly safely lowered and the crew succeeded in picking up Adams and Bungay. Sullivan and Edwards managed to climb up life lines, but Foster was nowhere to be seen and there is no doubt that the poor fellow was struck on the head by the boat and drowned. The emergency boat then proceeded towards the spot where the second officer and the Lascar were in the water. All eyes eagerly scanned the sea for traces of the missing men and the progress of the small boat was closely watched. It was some time, though, before the ship lost way and when at length she steamed astern even the small boat could not be seen except with the aid of glasses. Eventually the *Kaisar-i-Hind* got back close to the signal life buoy and anxiety for the safety of the officer was depicted on the face of everyone. The crew in the small boat searched for nearly an hour and then had to return with the worst news. Both the men had been lost. The boat was hauled up again and the steamer continued its journey. It was a sad sight to see the caps, life buoys, and gratings floating on the waves as the steamer left the fatal spot, and to show that everything that was possible was done to save the men it might be stated that about a dozen life buoys and the whole of the steering gear gratings on the port side were thrown overboard. It is not quite certain how the second officer met his death. One version is that he was pulled down by the Lascar, another is that he had to throw the Lascar off and after reaching the signal life buoy fell a prey to a shark, and a third version is that he did not reach the Lascar at all, but suddenly disappeared from view when only a few yards from the buoy. He was a very powerful swimmer and the theory that he was taken by a shark is looked upon as the most likely one. It is of course to be deeply deplored that the first emergency boat was not properly lowered, as if it had been it is more than probable that at any rate only the Lascar would have been drowned. The tragic event formed the sole subject of talk for the rest of the day. Everybody regretted deeply that two Englishmen had lost their lives through the suicide of the mad headed Lascar, who was only eighteen years of age, and who took his own life simply because his father had chastised him for laziness in the early part of the morning. The second officer was noted for his bravery. He had saved four lives altogether and had been awarded the Albert gold medal and the Stanhope and bronze medals by the Royal Humane Society. He died wearing his honours. A pathetic part of his death is that only about two months ago he left his mother at Colombo in order to join his ship at Bombay, and she proceeded to Shanghai where she was awaiting his arrival by the *Kaisar-i-Hind*. He was a single man, but the dead quartermaster was married, and his widow and five children reside in London. The passengers, fifty in all, were not slow in displaying a genuine sympathy for the bereaved family as shortly after the occurrence a subscription was started and when Hongkong was reached the sum of £45 had been handed to the purser, Mr. Lawrence, for the benefit of Mrs. Foster and her children. It is estimated that the terrible occurrence entailed a loss of about £150 to the P. & O. Company, as the first emergency boat was smashed against the ship's side and had to be cut astern and sunk, and the whole of the deck buoys and the port grating were left floating on the water.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The following is the fifty-ninth report of the Court of Directors, to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 16th February, at noon:—

To the Proprietors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Bank, and balance sheet for the half-year ending 31st December, 1894.

The net profits for that period, including $126,460.04, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to $1,803,977.66.

The Directors recommend the transfer of $500,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of the reserve fund, which fund will then stand at $5,000,000.

They also recommend writing off Bank premises account the sum of $100,000 and off dead stock account the sum of $64,312.05.

After making these transfers and deducting remuneration to Directors there remains for appropriation $1,129,665.61, out of which the Directors recommend a dividend of one pound and five shillings per share, which will absorb $444,444.44.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 2/-, the rate of the day, amounts to $555,555.56.

The balance $129,665.61 to be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. J. S. Moses has been appointed Chairman for the year 1895 and Mr. Julius Kramer Deputy Chairman.

The Directors regret to have to record the death of their colleague, Mr. Heinrich Hoppius, last December. He had been for nearly twenty-five years a Director of the Bank and had always taken a great interest in its welfare. Mr. N. A. Siebs has filled the vacancy thus created and his appointment requires confirmation at this meeting.

The Honourable J. J. Keswick, Honourable A. McConachie, and Mr. H. H. Joseph retire in rotation and being eligible for re-election the two former offer themselves accordingly. Mr. H. H. Joseph does not offer himself for re-election as he is about to leave the colony.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson, Mr. A. G. Wood, and Mr. S. G. Bird, who offer themselves for re-election.

C. J. HOLLIDAY, Chairman.

Hongkong, 1st February, 1895.

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1894.

LIABILITIES.		$ c.
Paid-up capital		10,000,000.00
Reserve fund		4,500,000.00
Marine insurance account		250,000.00
Notes in circulation		2,976,836.29
Deposits:—		
Silver	$73,654,839.43	
Sterling, £3,064,641 9s. 2d. =	30,646,414.58	
		104,300,754.01
Bills payable (including drafts on London Bankers and short sight drawings on London office against bills receivable and bullion shipments)		22,334,819.31
Profit and loss account		1,803,977.66
		$153,166,387.27

ASSETS.		$ c.
Cash		36,874,915.26
Bullion in hand and in transit		5,893,406.31
Investments, viz.:—		
£250,000, 2¾ per cent. Consols lodged with the Bank of England as a special London reserve	$1,900,000.00	
£547,300, Consols and other sterling securities	5,473,000.00	
		7,373,000.00
Bills discounted, loans, and credits		44,221,630.44
Bills receivable		57,530,235.86
Bank premises		1,108,887.35
Dead stock		164,312.05
		$153,166,387.27

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1894.

Dr.	$ c.
To amounts written off:—	
Remuneration to directors	10,000.00
To dividend account:—	
£1 5s. per share on 80,000 shares = £100,000 at 4s. 6d.	444,444.44
To dividend adjustment account:—	
Difference in exchange between 4s. 6d. the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 2s. 0d., the rate of the day	555,555.56
To transfer to reserve fund	500,000.00
To transfer to Bank premises	100,000.00
To transfer to dead stock account	64,312.05
To balance carried forward to next half-year	129,665.61
	$1,803,977.66

Cr.		$ c.
By balance of undivided profits, 30th June, 1894	$ c. 126,460.04	
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 31st December, 1894, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due	1,677,517.62	
		1,803,977.66
		$1,803,977.66

RESERVE FUND.	$ c.
To balance	5,000,000.00
	$5,000,000.00
By balance, 30th June, 1894	$4,500,000.00
By transfer from profit and loss account.	500,000.00
	$5,000,000.00

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held at the offices of the Company, Bank Buildings, on Monday. There were present Hon. E. R. Belilios (Chairman), Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, J. Kramer, F. A. Gomes, Poon Pong (Directors), C. Tomlin (Acting Secretary); A. Tillett, Geo. Fenwick, E. J. Moses, N. J. Gomes, A. T. G. da Silva, Wong Ping Lum, Woo Hon, A. G. B. Soares, and J. R. Michael.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been for some days in the hands of the shareholders, I propose, with your permission, to take them as read. Before referring to them, I wish to correct a wrong impression I unconsciously conveyed to you at the last half-yearly meeting. When replying to a question I said that the opening of the West River was provided for by treaty, but I have since ascertained that this is unfortunately not the fact. I am glad to say, however, that the opening of this great inland waterway to foreign trade is being vigorously advocated by the local Chamber of Commerce, and I trust the time is not far distant when their efforts to secure this right will be crowned with success. Turning to matters immediately before us, the remarks I made on the Company's working at the last meeting apply, in many respects, to that of the past six months. Our steamers have been earning on an average $2,000 more per month than they did during the corresponding half of 1893, but the increase has been absorbed by larger outlay on coal, stores, and insurance, and I think, therefore, that the working of the fleet shows better results than that of the same period of 1893. Other influences have affected the river trade rather adversely. In July, August, and, in a less degree, September, trade suffered from

the epidemic of plague, and latterly Chinese business has been somewhat restricted owing to the disturbing effect of the Chino-Japanese war. The war has, moreover, been the means of further enhancing the price of coal, while the low rates of exchange have been felt in our remittances for stores and marine insurance. Nevertheless, I think I can see signs of improvement in business generally and I feel hopeful that at the next meeting the Board will be able to present a statement to the full as satisfactory, if not more so, as the one before you. I am glad to be able to state that the fleet is in a satisfactory condition, all the steamers being in good running order. The *Powan* has undergone rather heavier repairs than usual, some of the superstructure having been renewed, and the cost of fitting her with steam steering gear was a large item, but it has proved satisfactory in enabling her to be more readily handled. With regard to the large sum shown by the accounts to be lying in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at call, this was lodged there a few days only; I may say the money has been well invested on sound security. Another item you may have noticed is the writing off of some $7,000 from the value of investments in the shares of local joint stock companies in order that they may stand in our books at market value. I am confident you will agree with the Board that this is a prudent and reasonable measure. When the Chinese authorities laid torpedo mines in the Canton River, your Directors deemed it advisable to provide for this extra risk, and the full value of the Company's steamers running in the river was covered in London at a moderate rate. The Company owned by foreclosure one block and was interested as mortgagees in three other blocks in the Taipingshan closed area. Out of our claims on these, two have been settled without entailing any loss, one shows a loss which was anticipated and has been provided for, and the fourth claim is before the Board of Arbitrators to-day, but so far as the Company is interested, I am glad to say that the offer of the Government exceeds the amount of the Company's mortgage. This speaks well for our valuators and goes to prove that all the other properties under mortgage to us have been carefully valued and that they are good and safe investments. And now with regard to another matter which was brought up at the last meeting. I refer to the proposal by one or two shareholders that there should be a return of a portion of the capital. The Board has carefully considered this proposition from all points of view and has for the present decided against it, for reasons which will, I feel sure, receive the general concurrence of the shareholders. The war between China and Japan just now is a disturbing factor in all calculations and it will be wise to defer any change in our financial position until it is concluded. Great changes may result from the conflict and we ought to be in a position to secure any advantages that may be attainable at its close. It is probable among other things that, on the conclusion of peace, the upper branches of the Pearl River—the West, the North, and the East Rivers—may all be opened to foreign trade, and this Company should be ready to occupy the new field with the smallest possible delay. We have been the pioneers of steam navigation on the inland waterways of South China, and it would be the wildest folly to allow others to reap where we have sown. To secure the legitimate fruits of our past enterprise, therefore, we must be prepared with the requisite capital to provide a fleet of smaller craft to run in shallow water and act as feeders to our big steamers. The Board sincerely laments the loss by death of one of its members, Mr. H. Hoppius, who had occupied a seat on it for rather more than a year. Mr. N. Siebs, his successor in the firm of Messrs Siemssen & Co., has been invited to fill the vacancy and this appointment will require your confirmation. In conclusion I may add that I shall be happy to answer any questions.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Captain TILLETT seconded.

Carried.

Captain TILLETT—As I am somewhat responsible for the remarks you made with regard to returning a certain amount of capital to the shareholders, I beg to say that I quite concur with you. Circumstances alter cases, and I concur with the views of the Board that we should be prepared to take the earliest advantage for the welfare of the Company of any future developments in China such as you have mentioned in your remarks. I have much pleasure in proposing the confirmation of the election of Mr. Siebs as successor on the Board of the late Mr. Hoppius.

Mr. FENWICK seconded.

Carried.

Mr. KRAMER moved, and Mr. MICHAEL seconded, the re-election as auditors of Messrs. Gourdin and Henderson.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business before the meeting, gentlemen. I have to thank you for your attendance. Dividend warranst will be ready to-morrow.

Mr. FENWICK—I beg to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN—Thank you. I hope we will be able to meet you with even better accounts next half-year.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the fourteenth annual report for presentation to the shareholders at the annual meeting to be held at noon on the 9th inst.

The General Managers have pleasure in submitting to the shareholders a statement of the Company's accounts for the year 1894.

Including $853.76 brought forward from last year, and after deducting $10,000 paid on the 27th July last as an interim dividend of 8 per cent., the balance at credit of profit and loss is $31,227.21, which it is recommended should be appropriated as follows:—

A final divided of $4=16 per cent. per share	$20,000.00
To write off property account	9,257.59
To carry forward	1,969.62
	$31,227.21

The new extensions having now been completed, the cost $13,097.16 will be transferred to property account, which, after allowing for the sum of $9,257.59 written off as above mentioned, will then stand at $110,000.

In the absence of Mr. Arnold the accounts have been audited by Mr. Thos. I. Rose.

Mr. Thomas Arnold offers himself for re-election as auditor.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 28th January, 1895.

ASSETS.		$ c.
Property account	$119,160.43	
Less amount appropriated from last year's account	13,000.00	106,160 43
Extension account—		
Expended during 1893	$ 1,309.20	
Expended during 1894	11,787.96	13,097.16
Invested in Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's shares		180.00
Cash on hand		159.09
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank—current account		27,100.97
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank—deposit account		12,000.00
Outstanding accounts		2,2 4.60
Accounts receivable		276.16
Ice on hand		180.00
Cash on hand		20.00
		$161,468.41

LIABILITIES.	$ c.
Capital account	125,000.00
Accounts payable	3,828.25
Unclaimed dividend account	506.18
Ammonia reserve account	906.77
Profit and loss account	31,227.21
	$161.468.41

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	$ c.
To salaries, wages, and general trade expenses	19,627.89
To General Managers' commission	2,000.00
To auditor's fees	100.00
	21,727.89
To interim dividend of 8 per cent. paid on 27th July, 1894	10,000.00
To balance	31,227.21
	$62,955.10

	$ c.
By balance brought forward from last year	853.76
By receipts for ice during the year, value of stock on hand, &c.	60,490.62
By rents received, less Crown rents and taxes paid	761.82
By interest	832.90
By transfer fees	17.00
	$62,955.10

KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING CO., LIMITED.

The sixth ordinary meeting of the shareholders of the Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited, was held at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings, at noon, on Monday. Mr. F. Henderson (Chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. J. M. E. Machado, F. A. Morgan M. S. Northcote, C. A. Ozorio, A. G. Stokes, H. J. Holmes, J. H. Cox, E. J. Hughes, and A. Shelton Hooper (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, which has already been published, said:—The accounts so closely resemble those of last year that it is hardly necessary to make any comment upon them. The revenue shows a very fair increase, but the expenditure for repairs has been considerable, and the profits are almost exactly the same as last year. There has been an increasing demand for houses on the Kowloon side and Knutsford Terrace has been well occupied throughout the year. The question of utilising the vacant piece of land on the Terrace has been considered, but it seems hardly advisable to begin operations until the debentures in the Wharf and Godown Company have been disposed of. I move the adoption of the report.

Mr. HOLMES—Before proceeding with the accounts I should like to ask one or two questions, that will probably make matters a little clearer to the public. Is the money invested in the Godown Company to be held by the Company for an unlimited term or is this Company at liberty to call it in on notice?

The CHAIRMAN—The debentures run over ten years, but are transferable at any moment. We can dispose of them whenever we find a purchaser.

Mr. HOLMES—The Company can deal with these debentures at any time?

The CHAIRMAN—Whenever they like. They are now secured over the property of the Company; they were not before.

Mr. HOLMES—With reference to the remark made by the Chairman about building on the vacant lot, in the event of the Company deciding to build upon it, will there be any probability of a further call upon the shareholders or will the money now at command—say $19,000—be dealt with or drawn against by the Company without a further call being made on the shareholders?

The CHAIRMAN—There is no intention on the part of the directors to make any further call. The $19,000 will go very far.

Mr. HOLMES—It might give a little more confidence to the public if it were known that there was no intention at present to make any call.

The CHAIRMAN—There is no intention at the present moment, nor does it seem necessary. The houses will not cost $19,000.

Mr. HOLMES—They will be built at the request of probable tenants?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. MORGAN—I notice in the accounts that there is nothing put down for depreciation of the property. There is nothing written off whatever. I have been away from the Colony recently and do not know whether in last year's accounts anything was written off and I do not know how old the property is.

The CHAIRMAN—The property is supposed to have been kept up in proper repair and considering that it is not very old nothing has been written off. There is an item of $834.95 for maintenance.

Mr. MORGAN—That goes to show that the repairs are being kept up well. How old are the buildings?

The SECRETARY—The Company was started in 1889 and the buildings were commenced within twelve months after that, and they took about twelve months to build.

Mr. MORGAN—So that they are comparatively new and the directors did not consider it necessary to write anything off for depreciation this year.

The CHAIRMAN—No, not this year.

Mr. STOKES seconded the CHAIRMAN'S motion and the report was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. OZORIO, seconded by Mr. STOKES, Messrs. F. Henderson and F. A. Gomes were re-elected directors.

Mr. HUGHES proposed and Mr. COX seconded the re-election of Messrs. Arnold and Lyall as auditors, and this motion was also carried.

CRICKET.

On Saturday the first meeting between the Club and the Rifle Brigade came off on the Cricket Ground and resulted after a full and interesting day's cricket in a win for the Club by 47 runs on the first innings. Though individual members of the Rifle's team have played on the ground before, this was the first opportunity that has offered of judging of the strength of the regiment as a whole and keen cricketers may rejoice in the reflection that they may look forward again to the days when the Club *v.* The Regiment will be one of the most interesting fixtures of the season. Upon the present occasion the Club was well represented, though there were some noticeable absentees; on the other hand we believe the Rifles will play stronger a little later in the season. Sercombe Smith having arranged, in his usual courteous and obliging way, for the visitors to take first innings, Saunderson and Sergt. Burton opened the defence on behalf of the Rifle Brigade. Up to a certain point all went well with the batting side, as although Saunderson had to retire for 9 the score stood at 102 for 3 wickets when the tiffin bell rang. Upon resuming operations, however, a complete change came over the aspect of the game, and the seven remaining wickets only put on 25 runs, the whole side being disposed of for 127, an unexpected and on a good wicket a quite inexplicable occurrence. Knox carried out his bat for 36 made in excellent style, whilst Sergt. Burton contributed a freely hit 36 before he succumbed to one of Firth's deliveries. The latter bowled with excellent judgment throughout, whilst Shelford, who was put on late in the innings, claimed 4 wickets for 13. The innings of the Club was chiefly noticeable for the stand made by Reade and E. W. Maitland, who got together when the score stood at 2 for 37 and raised it by careful cricket to 106 before the latter was well caught by Alexander off Sergt. Burton's bowling. The retiring batsman had made two or three rather "uppish" strokes, but his innings was of great value to his side, as was that of Reade, who had to return to the Pavilion shortly after for guiding one of Lysley's into the hands of short slip. The only other batsman to offer any serious resistance to the bowling was Campbell, who made 27 before he was easily caught and bowled by the Rifles' new "bobbery" bowler. Lowson, who is unfortunately still rather a "poor thing," did not bat and the innings closed for 174. Sergt. Burton (rather slow left hand) was the most successful bowler, with 3 wickets for 10 runs, but the brunt of the bowling fell upon Lysley and Private Lee. The fielding of the Rifles was very close and smart, and in favourable contrast to that of the Club; the sticks were very well looked after, whilst Lysley's catch that got rid of Smith was really brilliant. Going in for the second time in a failing light Knox and Sergt. Burton carried the score to 50 for 1 wicket before the bell rang for the suspension of hostilities. By the courtesy of Major Faithfull and the Officers of the Hongkong Regiment the band played a pleasing selection of music during the afternoon.

RIFLE BRIGADE.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
L. T. B. Saunderson, b Firth	9	b Firth	8
Sergt. Burton, b Firth	36	not out	13
C. W. Knox, not out	36	not out	30
R. Alexander, b Firth	8		
J. H. Thresher, b Shelford	0		
C. V. Percival, b Firth	11		
R. Power, b Shelford	12		
J. L. Lysley, b Shelford	13		
G. Paley, c Campbell, b Shelford	0		
Pte. Weller, c and b Firth	0		
Pte. Lee	0		
Extras	7	Extras	4
	127		50

Bowling Analysis.

	Overs.	Mds.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wkts.
Firth	28	9	62	—	—	6
Watson	13	6	23	—	—	—
Lowson	5	2	6	—	—	—
E. W. Maitland	2	—	13	—	—	—
Smith	1	—	3	—	—	—
Shelford	5	1	13	—	—	4

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

E. W. Maitland, c Alexander, b Burton	41
A. S. Anton, b Lee	8
C. M. Firth, c Lee, b Lysley	14
Surg.-Major Reade, c Lee, b Lysley	41
G. D. Campbell, H.K.R., c and b Alexander	27
F. Maitland, b Lee	8
T. Shelford, R.N., lbw, b Burton	13
T. S. Smith, c Lysley, b Lee	11
B. P. Sheldon, not out	0
J. G. Watson, c Alexander, b Burton	0
Extras	9
	174

Bowling Analysis.

	Overs.	Mds.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wkts.
Lee	22	9	52	—	—	3
Lysley	18	7	46	—	—	2
Alexander	9	1	29	—	—	1
Weller	4	1	13	—	—	—
Saunderson	3	—	15	—	—	—
Burton	3	—	10	2	—	3

FOOTBALL.

Hongkong Football Club *v.* The Navy.

By a quarter to five on Thursday afternoon a considerable number of spectators was assembled in the Happy Valley to witness the return match between the two above teams. The Navy kicked off and visited their opponents' headquarters, but a long kick from Thresher placed the Club on the aggressive, but after a little play the ball went behind. A good run up the field and an excellent centre by Shelford sent the ball right in front of the Club's goal and a smart shot had to be thrown out by Sharp. The ball was returned immediately to him by an opponent, and in order to save he fisted behind. Nothing came of the corner and play became now very evenly divided, Thresher playing an excellent game as back and Ezekiel preventing all danger by the successful way in which he, when unable to get at the ball, took the man. At half-time nothing had been scored. After an interval of five minutes a tug of war commenced, both sides doing their utmost to prevent a draw. The Club now commenced to press and several times were on the point of scoring, but although on these occasions it seemed as if something might be obtained, so greatly harassed were they who attempted to shoot, that the ball never reached the desired enclosure. Pratt, helped by his other back, Sweeting, eventually cleared, and the Navy caused the Club to kick out. Pressing again they obtained a corner, which although excellently placed failed to be of service. When the whistle blew neither side had scored, one of the best matches of the season thus ending in a draw. Every point of the game was watched by the on-lookers with much interest and enthusiasm, and any fine piece of play was heartily applauded.

From a spectacular point of view the match of Monday between the Hongkong Football Club and the Navy was eminently pleasing. The passing of the two teams was superior to anything that has been seen before during this season. The ground was not exactly velvety as regards its softness, but as both teams played a gentle and careful game its condition was not of much importance. For the first few minutes the Navy worked the ball by a succession of scrimmages right down to the goal line, and it required all the skill of their opponents to keep them back. The successful way in which the Navy heeled the ball out of the scrimmage conduced much to their success in getting up the field. The fury of this onset having passed off, the Club forced the ball to return, until at length they were in the Navy's twenty-five. Here a high kick landed the ball on the goal line and the Club running up endeavoured to bring it to rest. After a few short kicks, however, it passed into touch in goal. Half time arrived with no score. Re-starting, the weight of the Club began to tell; moreover their passing became very dodgy, the passing back especially being very perplexing to their opponents. Potts on several occasions by sheer strength forced the ball up, though much impeded by his adversaries' tackling. Anton also made several good runs and ran round those who attempted to stop him in good style. Shelford for the Navy gave a temporary respite by passing out, which was continued in such a way that his side reached the other end of the field. But the holder running into touch enabled the Club to rally and save disaster. A few minutes before time arrived Edwards and Cameron eluding their opponents by kicking from one to the other were enabled to score a try. Matheson took the kick, but did not convert. Nothing further was scored, so that the Club left the field winners by one try to nil.

We (*Mercury*) have received news from Newchwang by letter, stating that the Chinese have succeeded in poisoning the water used by the Japanese, and that many are sick and dying in consequence.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

At a general meeting, held on Thursday at 5.30 p.m. at the Hongkong Hotel, the following report submitted by the Hon. Secretary (Major G. K. Moore) was adopted:—

"In presenting the annual report for 1894, the Secretary is pleased to be able to state that the Association is in a satisfactory condition. A few members have resigned but more new members have joined. The number shown by the printed list at the commencement of the year was 132; it is now 150, although the S. L. I. have just left.

"The Easter Meeting was better attended than in former years; the prizes were better, and the Hongkong Regiment again supported the meeting with great keenness. By the courtesy of the officer commanding S.L.I. the marking was efficiently and economically carried out. The championship was won by Major Eyton, 1st Shropshire Regiment.

"Four cups were won during the year at the weekly competitions. One for the highest average with Martini-Henry Rifle in the Interport Trial Competition. This was won by Commander Ashe, R.N., with Mr. E. C. Shepherd a good second.

"The Long Range Cup started in August, 1893, was won by Mr. Mann in June, 1894. The Short Range Cup started in 1893 was won by Commander Ashe, February, 1894. The Short Range Cup started in February, 1894, was won by Mr. G. C. Hayward in June, 1894.

"An extra meeting was held in autumn. The Championship was won by Mr. J. A. Strick, 1st Shropshire Regt."

Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G., was elected President for the present year, and the following gentlemen to serve on the Committee:—Messrs. Ford, E. Robinson, F. Smyth, W. Stewart, T. Jackson, E. C. Shepherd, Inspectors Mann and Watson, Sergt. Gillies, Capt. Palmer, Major Moore, Major Wrottesley, Capt. Rettallick, an officer of the Rifle Brigade, and an officer of the Navy. Major Moore was elected Hon. Secretary, Capt. Palmer Hon. Treasurer, and Inspector Mann Assistant Hon. Secretary.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the late President, Colonel Jerrard.

There was a good attendance of members at the weekly competition on Saturday. The Cup was won by Sapper Pritchard and the Spoons by Major Wrottesley. Surgeon-Major Westcott, Captain Palmer, and Lieut. Staveley. The following are the best scores:—

Name.	500 yards.	600 yards.	Total.	H'cap points.	G. total.
Sap. Pritchard, R.E.	27	30	57	10	67
Mjr. Wrottesley, R.E.	31	24	55	4	59
Sur.-Major Westcott.	30	23	53	6	59
Capt. Palmer, O.S.D.	31	19	50	6	56
Lt. C. B. Staveley, R.B.	30	19	49	6	55
Mr. Rosevere, R.N.	24	19	43	8	51
Mr. Rutter	28	11	39	12	51

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE CLOSED HOUSES AND INSANITARY DWELLINGS ORDINANCE, 1894.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—I have to thank you for explaining in your leading article published this morning that in forwarding the memorial with reference to the above mentioned Ordinance to the press before it was signed and sent in to the Government there was no wish on the part of the promoters to disregard conventional and official courtesy. As, however, you refer to "a misstatement which occurs in the second paragraph and which strikes a false note at the outset," I think it only fair to point out that while admitting the technical inaccuracy of the second paragraph, it is scarcely fair to say that it strikes a "false note."

In your leader of the 25th December last concerning the debate on the new Health Bill, which you stated was one of the most important and interesting that had taken place in the Legislative Council for some years, and after saying that the time had arrived when it was necessary to deal effectively with the conflicting interests of property owners and the community generally, you spoke of the compensation for houses closed during epidemic becoming possibly a severe strain upon the colony and said;

"In this matter therefore, as well as in the other questions decided on Saturday, we think the public at large will thank *the Government for having used the official phalanx to outvote the unofficial members.*" The italics are mine. But is it *striking a false note* to say that the Ordinance was passed by the votes of the unofficial members against the protests and the votes of the unofficials? The principle of the Ordinance being approved of by the unofficial members no division was called for on the second or third reading, as correctly stated by you this morning, but upon the second reading Dr. Ho Kai, who was the only unofficial who refrained from voting on the 16th section, is reported to have said: "The Bill as it stood was grandmotherly enough and some of the amendments introduced into it have the undoubted effect of decreasing the value of property to a very considerable extent;" and further on, "Still I feel it fair to those who have acquired by industry, by success in business, or otherwise, large sums of money which they have invested in this colony that they should receive due consideration and not be treated with utter disregard to their interests." And when the Bill was in Committee on section 16, Mr Chater is reported to have said "You are going to give compensation to people who own property in Taipingshan, and that being so I say let this section be deleted and both sets of landlords be treated alike. I know the section will be carried against us, but we cannot be parties to carrying an Ordinance by which you deprive people of rights, as I say most unjustly, because if you give compensation to one set of landlords you ought to give it to the other. . . . If people have legal rights against the Permanent Committee, do not let us be parties to depriving them of those rights; if they have no such rights we will hear no more about it; if they have let them fight it out."—Yours faithfully,

H. L. D.

Hongkong, 1st February, 1895.

THE NEUTRALITY OF SHANGHAI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I will thank you to accord me space in which to make a few remarks on your leading article in Saturday's issue referring to the neutrality of Shanghai which has hitherto been guaranteed by Japan. I note that while you admit that China was careful to refrain from following this excellent example by respecting the neutrality of Yokohama you give Japan no credit for the great and special care she has systematically shown throughout the hostilities not to interfere with foreign commercial interests. Not only have the Japanese avoided all interference with Shanghai, in spite of the strong provocation afforded by the advantage taken of this policy by the Chinese, but they also left Newchwang untroubled, and (spite of what Reuter says about the foreign fleets preventing the Japanese attacking the Chefoo forts) effected landings at a distance from Chefoo, so as not to cause disturbance to foreign interests there, which, by the way, are by no means great.

In spite of an obvious desire on your part to be fair in your remarks you are one-sided in your arguments, and appear as though you were contesting a case with an imaginary opponent rather than impartially criticising a situation. Let me illustrate. After stating that it is not difficult to understand the irritation Japan must feel in connection with the active use made of the Kiangnan Arsenal and the facilities of the port of Shanghai by the Chinese, and remarking that you fail to see how such irritation can be removed, you say:—"The Powers could not "reasonably ask China to refrain from using "such means of defence as she possesses, and "the supplies of war material turned out by the "Kiangnan Arsenal and the facilities afforded "by the port of Shanghai are amongst the most "important of those means." Why not? The Powers could make such a request with just as much justice as they could ask Japan to fetter her movements and prolong the war by leaving China a free base at Shanghai. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. If for purely selfish reasons the Treaty Powers can insist upon hampering Japan in the prosecution of the war, handicapping her by securing to China throughout the hostilities a port and arsenal protected practically by the guns of their squadrons, they can with equal right and justice—having in view the shortening of the war—insist on China also regarding Shanghai as neutral and not using it as a base for supplies, &c. It seems to me that it is not a question of right or fairness in either case; it is simply one of might and self-interest. To affect to consider it otherwise would be the shallowest hypocrisy. And if we are to go on the ground of mere expedience, what becomes of your argument, Mr. Editor? For my part I prefer to be frank. If sentiment is to enter the question as between China and Japan I say emphatically that every foreigner (who is not in the employ of the Chinese Government) is almost constrained to wish success to Japan. She represents progress and civilisation and humanity. Moreover she is doing a work that sooner or later one or other of the Treaty Powers (probably Great Britain) would have been compelled to undertake. If not thwarted and foiled by selfish interference she will be the means of further opening up that huge oyster China to foreign trade and residence. In any case the war will not fail in the long run to have a beneficial influence on China, and will be sure to enure to the benefit of foreigners. The Governments of the Treaty Powers are not blind to these facts, and I feel convinced they will continue to avoid any intermeddling in the quarrel. Meantime I hope the foreign Press in the Far East will endeavour to steer clear of suggestions of interference by the Powers, as they can only serve to create needless irritation or excite false hopes.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

BRITON.

Hongkong, 3rd February, 1895.

HONGKONG.

The pantomime "Robinson Crusoe" was produced by the A.D.C. on the 30th January and repeated on the 4th inst. Six more performances are arranged for. The production is a very successful one, the dancing and spectacular effects being very fine, but the dialogue is somewhat weak. The owners of property closed during the plague and which has not been taken over by the Government under the Resumption Ordinance are memorialising the Secretary of State for compensation for loss of rent. A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 31st ult. A cricket match was played on the 2nd inst. between the Cricket Club and the Rifle Brigade and resulted in a victory for the former.

There were 1347 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 149 were Europeans.

At the Alice Memorial Hospital last month there were 53 in-patients treated and the number of out-patient visits was 923. At the Nethersole Hospital the numbers were 35 and 30

It is notified in the *Gazette* that regulation No. 6 of the 16th March, 1891, amending regulation No. 6 of the 16th December, 1889, as well as the said regulation No. 6 of the 16th December, 1889, are annulled. The regulations referred to provided for an annual Government test of the Peak tramway.

In about a month's time ten new members of the Police Force will arrive from England in charge of Inspector Stanton, who is returning to the colony after an absence of ten months. Inspector Gauld will arrive about the middle of next month. In the meantime there are to be two or three removals. Inspector Kemp and Acting Inspector Duncan take their leave next month, and Mr. George Horspool, Deputy Superintendent, will bid farewell to the colony. Chief Inspector Mathieson is going about the same time, and in April we lose the services, for a time, of Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent, who also goes away on leave.

At the regular meeting of the Victoria Preceptory held on Wednesday Sir Knight R. Cook was installed as Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year, after which he appointed his officers as follows:—Prelate, Sir Knight J. Kirkwood, Constable, Sir Knight J. Bryant, Marshal, Sir Knight D. Macdonald, Sub-Marshal, Sir Knight S. L. Darby, Treasurer, Sir Knight J. W. Kinghorn, Registrar, Sir Knight J. Dyer Ball, Capt. of the Guard, Sir Knight P. R. Simmonds, Almoner, Sir Knight F. P. Goddard, D. of Ceremonies, Sir Knight S. J. Hanisch, Organist, Sir Knight F. W. Hall, Guard, Sir Knight J. Maxwell. After the close of the meeting the Sir Knights adjourned to a banquet at the Hongkong Hotel.

A meeting of the Hongkong Minstrels was called for Saturday afternoon at the City Hall for the purpose of considering the balance sheet of the recent plague concerts. An hour after the time advertised for commencing the proceedings only four members beside the Secretary, Mr. W. Blaynay, had turned up. It was decided to hold the meeting in the New Victoria Hotel and even then the five gentlemen who were present were unable to conclude the business. It will be remembered that the balance sheet showed that the expenditure amounted to the rather big sum of $1,515 and the profits were only $416.49. The whole of the expenditure and receipt items were pronounced correct, but as the Secretary had not brought the bank pass book with him the Chairman, Mr. C. Duncan, decided that it would be unwise to adopt the balance sheet without having actual proof that the balance was in existence. It was thereupon resolved to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday afternoon at five o'clock, on which day the Secretary said he would produce the book.

On Thursday night Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, opened a debate at the rooms of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society on "The local importance of the preservation of game in Hongkong." The Hon. J. J. Keswick presided, and amongst those present was His Excellency the Governor. Mr. May thought it was highly desirable to preserve game, with the object of providing a certain section of the community with healthy recreation and sport. The only difficulty in connection with game preservation was that it must be confined to a small number and necessitated the giving of extensive rights to individuals. But in this colony the question was not such a large one as it would appear, as during the present shooting season the number of game licences that had been taken out was under twenty; therefore the interests involved in giving to any one person exclusive rights to a part of the island were very small. The head of game amounted to almost nil, as the twenty guns had averaged during the season only one and a half partridge. He had obtained from His Excellency rights to shoot over the Tytam Peninsula and had paid special attention to pheasant breeding. In November Captain Murray and he had the pleasure of bagging the first two pheasants shot in the island. He thought there was no doubt that pheasants would thrive in Hongkong and he did not see why in course of time they should not cover the whole island. A discussion followed and a vote of thanks concluded the debate.

The thirty-third issue of *The Chronicle and Directory for China, Japan, Straits Settlements, Philippines, &c.* was issued on Thursday. The volume, as in previous years, shows an advance and improvement on former issues, both in the mass of information and in get-up. In spite of every effort to condense the contents, the book contains forty pages more than last year's edition, and the alphabetical list of names has now reached a total of 16,722. The descriptions of the various ports and countries have been carefully revised and expanded, and many have been almost wholly re-written, to bring them up to date and give the information required by the increasing class of travellers round the world. The plans have also been revised and now include all the latest alterations. In the list of Treaties, &c., will be found several important additions, such as the new American Immigration Treaty with China, the new British Treaty with Japan, new Orders in Council, &c. The paper on which the book is printed is slightly thinner than that of last year owing to the desire to keep down the bulk. The work has been carefully printed from a new fount of type specially kept for the purpose, and the contents arranged with the view to facilitate speedy reference. We think that in this, the most important matter after correctness, the book is excelled by no other work of the kind. In short no effort has been spared to render *The Chronicle and Directory* all that it professes to be—a *vade mecum* for every business man in the Far East and equally so for those firms in Europe, America, and Australasia trading with the wide area of Eastern Asia it embraces. As some sign of the public appreciation of this fact attention is directed to the increasing number of advertisments, representing the most varied industries, trades, and countries. The volume well maintains its ancient reputation as it does its familiar red cloth cover.

At the regular meeting of the Victoria Chapter held on the 28th January the following were elected as officers for the ensuing year:—M.E.Z., M. Ex Comp. F. W. Heuermann; H., M. Ex Comp. R. Cooke; Scribe E., Comp. J. Dyer Ball; Scribe N., Comp. A. R. Madar; P.S., Comp. D. Macdonald; Treasurer, Comp. G. J. B. Sayer; Janitor, Comp. J. Maxwell.

There was a good congregation at Mr. Sangster's Organ recital on Thursday evening, and the selections were much appreciated. Two vocal solos were introduced, which gave a pleasing variety to the programme. Mr. W. E. Crow sang Handel's "Arm, arm ye brave," but was not quite in his usually excellent voice. Mr. D. K. Sliman in Mendelssohn's beautiful solo "Then shall the righteous" sang with much feeling and expression.

The practices for the "Hymn of Praise" commence to-day. We learn that efforts have been made to bring together as large a number of performers, both vocal and instrumental, as the colony can produce and we have little doubt that under the able direction of Mr. Geo. Lammert, an efficient rendering of Mendelsohn's popular work will be the result. It is intended that the performance should take place at the end of March.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 31st January, 1895, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
	$	$
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	1,727,560	900,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	5,990,737	2,500,000
	$7,718,297	$3,400,000

On Wednesday afternoon there was sold by Mr. C. C. Malsch, Superintendent of Crown Lands, lot No. 1,316, on a lease of 999 years. The lot is situate on the Upper Richmond Road near the eastern end and on the southern and upper slope of the road. The lot measures 237 feet on the north, 225 ft. on the south, 202 ft. on the east, and 150 ft. on the west, and covers 36,130 square feet, and the annual Crown rent is $90. The upset price was a $1,806 and the property sold for $1,816 to Mr. E. S. Kelly who owns the adjoining property on the west.

There will shortly be several changes in important official appointments in the colony. His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, we hear, leaves on the 6th of next month, and the Hon. W. M. Goodman is mentioned as likely to succeed him as acting Chief Justice, pending the return of Sir Fielding Clarke. Should this arrangement be carried out Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C., would no doubt act for Mr. Goodman in the office of Attorney-General. Mr. F. H. May, Captain-Superintendent of Police, and Mr. Lethbridge, Superintendent of the Gaol, are both going on leave and it is said that Commander Hastings will hold the two acting appointments, a Passed Cadet taking Commander Hastings's place on the bench at the Magistracy. Mr. G. Horspool, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, is retiring on his pension, or presumably the appointment of Acting Captain Superintendent would have been offered to him.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Yokohama	28,462,134	28,623,687
Kobe	16,645,876	16,480,793
	45,108,010	45,104,480

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton and Macao	7,597,185	8,178,734
Amoy	740,767	699,647
Foochow	13,777,348	21,329,281
Shanghai and Hankow ...	21,551,498	25,514,030
	43,706,798	55,721,692

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai ...	22,555,223	21,619,462

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95. lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton	3,520,040	1,349,192
Amoy	16,894,081	19,376,012
Foochow	8,140,519	5,883,106
Shanghai	25,783,527	24,176,823
	54,338,167	50,785,133

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 31st January.—(From Messrs. Cromie & Burkill's circular.)—Quotations from London dated 29th current are unaltered. The market is reported to be quiet. Raw Silk.—Owing to the intervention of the Chinese New Year holidays business has been at a standstill. Quotations as far as can be ascertained remain the same as last week's. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, from the 24th to 30th January, are 624 bales of White, 98 bales of Yellow, and 50 bales of Wild Silk.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton	6,473	2,329
Shanghai	6,403	2,051
Yokohama	21,151	10,245
	34,027	14,625

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton	12,431	13,648
Shanghai	42,558	42,829
Yokohama	14,933	15,592
Total to date	69,922	72,069

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 5th February.—A good demand having been experienced there has been a sharp rise in prices. Quotations for Formosa are $39.00 to $39.50.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 5th February.—Business has been rather dull and prices have declined a little. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong,	No. 1, White ...	$7.58 to 7.60	per pcl.	
do.	„ 2, White ...	6.97 to 7.00	„	
Shekloong,	No. 1, Brown ...	4.85 to 4.90	„	
do.	„ 2, Brown ...	4.67 to 4.70	„	
Swatow,	No. 1, White ...	7.47 to 7.50	„	
do.	„ 2, White ...	6.88 to 4.90	„	
do.	„ 1, Brown ...	4.57 to 4.60	„	
Swatow,	No. 2, Brown ...	4.37 to 4.40	„	
Foochow Sugar Candy		10.90 to 11.00	„	
Shekloong	„	9.65 to 9.70	„	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The American ship *Berlin*, Hongkong to New York, 15th January, took:—7,963 packages Fire Crackers, 7,262 packages Tea, 2,213 bales Wool, 2,000 bales Cassia, 1,648 cases Fans, 1,086 bales Strawbraid, 400 cases Joss Sticks, 189 packages Rattanware, 50 cases Saigon Cassia, 20 packages Rush-hats, and 60 packages Sundries.

The British ship *Sierra Miranda*, Hongkong to San Francisco, 18th January, took:—500 rolls Matting, 7,550 empty Quicksilver Flasks, 16 cases Wooden Trunks, 1,810 packages Nut Oil, 40 bales Gambier, 153 bags Coffee, 25 packages Rattan Chairs, 575 bales Kapok, 350 packages Fire Crackers, 1,429 bags Tapioca, 175 bales Cassia, 264 cases Sago Flour, 34,046 bags Rice, 550 half-chests Tea, and 18,556 packages Merchandise.

The steamer *Argyll*, Hongkong to New York, 21st January, took:—5 cases Chinaware, 699 rolls Matting, 140 cases Preserves, 26 cases Bristles, 960 packages Merchandise, 30 cases Essential Oil, 30 cases Straw Hats, 28 casks Ginger, and 20 boxes Cassia.

The German steamer *Aglaia*, Hongkong to Havre, 22nd January, took:—40 cases Blackwoodware, 40 cases Chinaware, 89 cases Bristles, 465 rolls Matting, 51 packages Canes, and 15 cases Hair; for Havre option Hamburg:—20 cases Bristles, 10 cases Cassia Oil, and 223 boxes Camphor; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—291 cases Camphor, and 16 tubs Camphor; for Hamburg:—14 cases Bristles, 2 cases Cigars, 50 casks Preserves, 9 cases Curios, 11 cases Essential Oil, 82 bales Rattans, 45 cases Chinaware, 275 cases Cassia Buds, 8 cases Copperware, 100 cases Gallnuts, 290 bales Feathers, 69 packages Matting, 5 cases Silks, 200 cases Camphor, 5 boxes Porcelian, 327 packages Canes, 23 cases Gamboge, 4 cases Blackwoodware, 286 packages Merchandise, and 7 packages Sundries; for Hamburg option London:—36 packages Bristles; for London:—25 cases Aniseed Oil; for Bremen:—85 rolls Merchandise; for Antwerp:—25 cases Bristles; for Amsterdam:—1 cases Cigars; for Rotterdam:—100 casks Ginger and 200 cases Ginger; for New York:—23 cases Essential Oil.

The American ship *W. J. Rotch*, Hongkong to New York, 26th January, took:—17,961 packages Fire Crackers, 3,604 packages Tea, 2,570 rolls Matting, 1,500 packages Broken Cassia, 751 cases Cassia Buds, 700 cases Fans, 675 cases Joss Sticks, 526 packages Rattanchair, 550 cases Saigon Cassia, 500 cases Ginger, 373 bales Rattan Cores, 112 bales Strawbraid, and 1,912 packages Sundries.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 5th February.—Bengal.—Prices ruled high early in the interval, New Patna touching $905, New Benares $875, Old Patna $860, and Old Benares $850. After the receipt of news of the low average realized at the Government Auction a rapid decline took place, current quotations being $877½ for New and $850 for Old Patna, $855 for New and $840 for Old Benares. The market was inactive throughout.

Malwa.—A steady, though small, business has passed in this drug during the past week. Prices are slightly weaker, the following being the latest figures:—

New	$720	with allow'ce of	½ to 3½ cts.
Old (2 to 4 yrs.)	$730	„	0 to 1½ „
„ (5 to 7 yrs.)	$740	„	0 to 1½ „

Persian.—The demand has been meagre, but prices have been maintained. Quotations are unaltered, closing rates being $730 to $750 for Oily and $780 to $835 for Paper-wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

Old Patna	1,980 chests.
New Patna	230 „
Old Benares	1,370 „
New Benares	80 „
Malwa	1,000 „
Persian	980 „

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA. New.	PATNA. Old.	BENARES. New.	BENARES. Old.	MALWA. New.	MALWA. Old.
1895.	$	$	$	$	$	$
Feb. 1	882½	867½	865	855	720	730/740
Feb. 2	905	860	875	850	720	730/740
Feb. 3	900	860	870	850	720	730/740
Feb. 4	890	860	870	850	220	730/740
Feb. 5	877½	850	855	840	720	730/740

RICE.

HONGKONG, 5th February.—Holders being firm prices have advanced a little. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul
Saigon, Ordinary	$1.97 to 2.00
„ Round, good quality	2.23 to 2.25
„ Long	2.34 to 2.36
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	2.10 to 2.12
„ Garden, „ No. 1 ...	2.44 to 2.46
Siam White	2.87 to 2.89
„ Fine Cargo	3.14 to 3.16

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 5th February.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS:—*English Yarn*:—100 bales No. 40, House, at $117.50. *Bombay Yarns*.—560 bales No. 10 at $68 to $77, 440 bales No. 12 at $70 to $73.50, 960 bales No. 20 at $81 to $87. *White Shirtings*.—600 pieces Blue Lion at $5.50, 500 pieces Black Seal at $2.00, 500 pieces Stag at $2.10, 550 pieces Flower Basket at $2.60, 750 pieces O chop at $4.00, 500 pieces Gold Bearer at $4.65, 500 pieces No. 500 Cat Head at $3.30, 300 pieces E.K. at $5.52½ to arrive, 250 pieces No. 66,000 at $5.37½, 250 pieces Monkey and Elephant at $4.60. *Grey Shirtings*.—600 pieces Blue Joss No 2 at $2.87½, 300 pieces Blue Dragon at $2.87½, 2,600 pieces Blue 5 Men at $3.60, 1,000 pieces Red Eagle at $1.30, 300 pieces Elephant and Snake at $2.77½, 500 pieces Bombay at $1.68. *T-Cloths Mexican*.—8 lbs.—1,500 X.M. chop at $2.22½. 7 lbs.—750 pieces Red Pheasant at $1.85, 600 pieces Silver Pagoda at $1.85. 6 lbs.—750 pieces Red Dragon at $175. *Long Ells*.—125 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet at $6.90, 100 pieces Green at $7.30. *Camlets, Indigo*.—60 pieces LLL at $21.75, 120 pieces AAA at $25.25, 120 pieces BBB at $27.25, 200 pieces 4 Cocks assorted at $13.25.

METALS:—*Yellow Metal*.—39 case 14/20 oz. at $25.50. *Quicksilver*.—340 flasks at $117.25 to $118.00. *Tin*.—100 Slabs Siam at $37.25.

COTTON YARN.		per bale		
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20		$62.00	to	$87.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24		96.00	to	100.00
,, 22 to 24		101.00	to	105.00
,, 28 to 32		108.00	to	114.00
,, 38 to 42		116.00	to	125.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS..		per	piece	
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.		1.40	to	1.50
7lbs.		1.85	to	2.05
8.4 lbs.		2.40	to	3.10
9 to 10 lbs.		3.25	to	3.60
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.		2.10	to	2.30
58 to 60 ,,		2.60	to	3.10
64 to 66 ,,		3.20	to	3.60
Fine		3.90	to	6.20
Book-folds..		3.50	to	5.20
Victoria Lawns—12 yards		0.60	to	1.35
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.		1.40	to	1.50
7lbs. (32 ,,), ,,		1.80	to	1.90
6lbs. (32 ,,), Mexs.		1.60	to	1.70
7lbs. (32 ,,), ,,		2.05	to	2.25
8 to 8¼lbs. (36 in.)		2.20	to	2.90
Drills, English—40 yds., 13¾ to 4lbs		3.20	to	4.20
FANCY COTTONS				
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs.		1.30	to	2.70
Brocades—Dyed		3.90	to	4.95
		per	yard	
Damasks		0.13	to	0.17
Chintzes—Assorted		0.07	to	0.12
Velvets—Black, 22 in.		0.21	to	0.32
Velveteens—18 in.		0.18	to	0.24
		per	dozen	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk		0.55	to	0.90
WOOLLENS.		per	yard	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.		0.55	to	0.85
German		0.95	to	1.10
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.		1.20	to	2.60
		per	piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet		6.50	to	7.80
Assorted		6.60	to	7.90
Camlets—Assorted		14.00	to	29.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted		13.50	to	21.00
Orleans—Plain		3.70	to	4.90
		per	pair	
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.		4.50	to	9.00
METALS		per	picul	
Iron—Nail Rod		3.20	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar		3.15	to	3.20
Swedish Bar		4.35	to	—
Small Round Rod		3.50	to	—
Hoop		4.60	to	—
Old Wire Rope		3.00	to	—
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop		6.50	to	6.55
		per	case	
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.		25.50	to	—
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.		25.25	to	—
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.		25.00	to	—
Japan Copper		24.50	to	—
Tin		36.00	to	—
		per	box	
Tin-Plates		6.00	to	—
		per cwt.	case	
Steel		5.50	to	—
SUNDRIES AND COAL.		per	picul	
Quicksilver		117.00	to	—
		per	bbx	
Window Glass		3.20	to	—
		per 10-gal.	case	
Kerosene Oil		1.75	to	—

SHANGHAI, 31st January.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's Piece Goods Trade Report.)—Business was partly resumed yesterday after the Native New Year holidays, which were strictly observed by all engaged in this trade, importers, perforce, being obliged to do the same. The few sales made then were purely of a complimentary nature, the dealers waiting to see the result of the Yuen Fong Auction this morning, when the market was properly opened. The prices realised are certainly disappointing and altogether the reverse of what was expected; however, it must not be overlooked that, in view of the unsettled state of affairs in the North, the Native Banks are acting very cautiously in regard to issuing new credits, which is consequently forcing the dealers to curtail their operations for the time being. The chief enquiry at the moment is for White Shirtings, better prices for which are being offered, the higher reeds at Auction showing a certain amount of strength; the private business done, though, is very trifling, but several resales are said to have been made at slightly over the prices ruling before the holidays. There is no doubt that the markets in the interior are very bare of stocks and are quite prepared to receive supplies, especially in the North, so soon as peace is restored. The Manchester market is very dull, with a dragging enquiry, and quotations are very low, the large cotton crop in the States no doubt making itself felt. Manufacturers of fancy goods are also in want of orders and are telegraphing for counter offers.

TUESDAY, 5th February.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11⅝
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11⅝
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11⅞
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0⅛
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0¼
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.48
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.53
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.00
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	48
Credits, 60 days' sight	49½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	183¼
Bank, on demand	183½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	183¼
Bank, on demand	183½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72¼
Private, 30 days' sight	73¼
ON YOKOHAMA —	
On demand	½ % dis.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	15 % pm., nom.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	par.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	$9.95
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	51.50

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 5th February.—The market has ruled fairly active since date of our last report. Rates have continued steady except in Hongkong and Shanghai Banks, which show a still further rise. The tone of the market at time of closing is firm. Several local Companies have issued their half-yearly reports, all of which show good results and good prospects for the future.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have continued on the upward course and sales have been effected at 142, 145, 148, 150, and 152 per cent. prem. A sale is also reported at 154 per cent. prem., but at time of closing shares are obtainable at 153. National's and Bank of China continue neglected.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macaos have changed hands at $26½ and $27 cum div., and close with sellers at $25¾ ex div. Douglas's, China-Manilas, and Indo-Chinas are neglected at quotation and we have no sales to report.

REFINERIES.—Continue neglected at quotations.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have improved their position with sales at $145. Cantons are enquired for at a point or two under quotation, but shares are obtainable at $155. Straits have been enquired for at $23, but we have heard of no sales. We have no business to report in other Marine stocks.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have ruled somewhat firmer and shares could be placed at $186 to $187. China Fires have also improved their position with sales to $79.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled steady with small sales at $6, $6.10, $6.15, and $6.25, closing at $6.10. Balmorals have again changed hands at $4, $3.95, and $3.90, closing at latter rate with buyers. Jelebus have declined to $4.85 with sales. Charbonnages are neglected.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled in fair demand and several small lots have changed hands at 88 and 89 per cent. prem., closing steady at latter rate. Kowloon Wharfs have found buyers at $38 in fairly large lots. A. S. Watsons after sales at $10 are on offer at a slightly lower rate. Electrics have improved to $4.60 with sales at $4.25, $4.50, and $4.60, closing with sellers at latter rate. Fenwicks have found buyers at $16 and close steady at that. Hongkong Brick and Cements have changed hands at $4, and Dairy Farms at $5.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	$125	153 p. ct. pm., sellers
China, Japan, &c...	£2.5.0	nom.
Do., Founders.....	£1	£5
Nat. Bank of Ch...		
B.-Shares.....	£8	$18½, sellers
Foun. Shares..	£1	nom.
Brown & Co., H. G..	$50	$5, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	$10	$4, sellers
China Borneo	$55	nom.
China Sugar	$100	$152, sellers
Chinese Loan '86 E..	Tls. 250	11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruicks'k & Co	$5	$1
Dairy Farm Co.	$10	$5, sales
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	$25	$16, buyers
Green Island Cement	$50	$5, sales & sellers
H. Brick & Cement.	$12.50	$4, sales
H. & C. Bakery	$50	$36
Hongkong & C. Gas.	£10	$125
Hongkong Electric...	$8	$4.60, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways..	$100	$65, buyers
Hongkong Ice	$25	$30, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	$50	$38, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	$50	$120, sales & buyers
H. & W. Dock.....	$125	89 p. ct pm., sales
Hotels—		
Hongkong Hotel...	$50	$9, buyers
Shameen	$20	$4
Insurances—		
Canton	$50	$155
China Fire	$20	$79, sales
China Traders' ...	$25	$61, sellers
Hongkong Fire ..	$50	$187½, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 202
Straits Marine.....	$20	$24, sales & sellers
Union	$25	$145, sales
Yangtsze	$60	$81
Land & Building—		
H. Land Investm't	$50	$52, sales & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	$30	$8.30, ex div. sales
Humphreys Estate	$10	$10½ [& sellers
West Point Buildg.	$40	$15
Luzon Sugar	$100	$48, sellers
Mining—		
New Balmoral.....	$3	$4, sales & sellers
Charbonnages.....	$131.58	$75, sellers
Jelebu	$5	$4.85, sales & sellers
Punjom	$3¾	$6, buyers
Do. (Preference)	$1	$1.75
Raubs	13s. 10d.	$4.10, sales & sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China & Manila...	$50	$65, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co....	$50	$53, sales & sellers
H., Canton, & M..	$20	$25¾, ex div. sales
Indo-China S. N....	£10	$37 [& sellers
W'chai Warch'se Co.	$37½	$40
Wa'son & Co., A. S..	$10	$10, sellers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 1st February:—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—The Chinese New Year holidays have interfered with business. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—One or two lots of shares changed hands locally at 137½ per cent. premium. Yesterday a sale was made to Hongkong at 150 per cent. premium and exchange 72½, equal to 147 per cent. and 73. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed, and are wanted, at Tls. 110. Indo-China S. N. shares have receded to Tls. 26¾, at which a transaction is reported. Hongkong, Canton, & Macao Steamboat shares declined to $26¼ in Hongkong. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. changed hands at Tls. 125. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares are wanted at 85 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—Unions have been sold at $130 and Yangtszes at $81. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have been placed at $189. Wharfs.—Hongkong and Kowloon shares were bought from Hongkong at $39¼. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 37. Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—147 per cent. prem.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, Founders.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ld., *A*.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ld., *B*.—$21.

National Bank of China, Ld., Founders.—Nom.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ld.—Tls. 110 per sh.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ld.—Tls. 26¾ per sh.

China Mutual S. N. Co.—£50 per share.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ld.—T. Tls. 60 per sh.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—$26½ per share.

Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.—$53 per share.

Shanghai Dock Co.—Tls. 550 per share.

Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 150 per share.

S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 125 per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ld.—86 per cent. premium.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.—$60 per share.
North China Insurance Co., Ld.—Tls. 202½ per share.
Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ld.—$127½ per share
Yangtsze Insce. Assocn., Ld.—$81 per share.
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.—$155 per share.
Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—$24 per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—$183 per sh.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—$80 per share.
Straits Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—$5½ per share.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 270 per share.
Bird's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 37 per share.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—$39½ per share.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 1 per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ld.—$6½ per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ld., pref. shares—$1¾ per share.
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ld.—$5 per sh.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld.—$4.15 p. sh.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 145 per share.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 122½ per sh.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 200 per share.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ld.—$4 per share.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.—Tls. 172½ p. sh.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ld.—Tls. 36 p. sh.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—$154 per sh.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—$48 per share.
Hall & Holtz, Ld.—$15 per share.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld.—Tls. 37 per share.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.—$52½ p. sh.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—$37½ per share.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ld.—Tls. 33½ per sh.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 25 per share.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 250 per sh.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld.—Tls. 97½ per share.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld., Founders.—Nominal.
Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 110 per share.
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.—$9¾ per share.
L'Hotel des Colonies—Tls. 20.
China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 12.
Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 250 (*a*).
Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Tls. 100 (*a*).
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 100 (*a*).
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 95.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 1st February.—(From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—Since our last issue the Chinese New Year holidays have intervened and business has been almost entirely suspended. For London business has been small, nearly all shipments being made before the holidays set in. For New York by steam the steamer at present on the berth should get very fair support notwithstanding the slack time. Rates of freight are:—Shanghai to London, P. & O. S. N. Co., O. S. S. Co., Ben Line, C. M. S. N. Co., Glen Line 40s. per ton general cargo, 45s. waste silk, 50s. tea. Shanghai to Northern Continental ports 42s. 6d. per ton general cargo, 45s. waste silk. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Shell Line, Shanghai to London 40s. less 10 per cent.; Shanghai to Hamburg, 35s.; Shanghai to New York, 44s. Shanghai to New York direct, 50s. tea and general cargo. Shanghai to New York, *viâ* London, 50s. tea and general cargo. Shanghai to New York, sailer 23s. Shanghai to Havre direct—General cargo per ton of 40 cubic feet 37s. 6d. net; of 20 cwt. 45s. net. Shanghai to Genoa and Marseilles—General cargo per ton of 40 cubic feet 37s. 6d. net; of 20 cwt. 45s. Chefoo to Swatow, nothing doing; Chinkiang to Canton, 19 candareens; Wuhu to Canton, Wuhu to Swatow, nothing doing; Moji to Shanghai, $2 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai, $1.50 per ton coal. Settlements during the fortnight:—Nil Disengaged vessels in port.—*Belle of Bath*, American ship, 1,347 tons register; *John Smith*, American schooner, 565 tons register; *Darra*, British barque, 999 tons register.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Sutlej* (str.), *Ceylon* (str.), *Glenfalloch* (str.), *Telamon* (str.).
For LIVERPOOL.—*Oceanic* (str.).
For BREMEN.—*Darmstadt* (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).
For VICTORIA, B.C.—*Tacoma* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Belgic* (str.), *Tillie E. Starbuck.*
For NEW YORK.—*Glenshiel* (str.), *St. David, Sinram, Lucy A. Nickels.*
For AUSTRALIA.—*Taiyuan* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

January— ARRIVALS.
31, Pekin, British str., from Amoy.
31, Fokien, British str., from Tamsui.
31, Hertha, German str., from Singapore.
31, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
31, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
31, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
31, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.
31, Pathan, British str., from Amoy.
31, Strathavon, British str., from Moji.
31, Taiyuan, British str., from Kobe.
31, Benlarig, British str., from Moji.
31, Parthian, British str., from Saigon.
31, Bisagno, Italian str., from Bombay.
February—
1, Pingsuey, British str., from Liverpool.
1, Donar, German str., from Bangkok.
1, Hoihow, British str., from Canton.
2, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
2, Benledi, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
2, Tamarind, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
2, Mascotte, British str., from Yokohama.
2, Fidelio, German str., from Saigon.
2, Wm. Le Lacheur, British bk., from Rajang.
2, Imacos, Norw. bark, from Singapore.
2, Produce, Norw. str., from Cardiff.
3, Ayr, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
3, Dryfesdale, British str., from New York.
3, Frejr, Danish str., from Canton.
3, Hangchow, British str., from Canton.
3, Kungping, British str., from Shanghai.
3, Lienshing, British str., from Canton.
3, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
3, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
3, Pakshan, British str., from Bangkok.
3, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
3, Rattler, British gunboat, from Bangkok.
3, Darmstadt, German str., from Shanghai.
4, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
4, Continental, Dutch str., from Saigon.
4, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
4, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
4, Castella, Spanish cruiser, from Manila.
5, Activ, Danish str., from Canton.
5, Natal, French str., from Shanghai.
5, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
5, Amigo, German str., from Saigon.
5, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
5, Progress, German str., from Saigon.
5, Kara, German str., from Mororan.
5, Soochow, British str., from Canton.
5, Telamon, British str., from Shanghai.

January— DEPARTURES.
31, Kaisar-i-Hind British str., for Shanghai.
31, N. S. de Loreto, Spanish str., for Manila.
31, Rosetta, British str., for Europe.
31, Siam, British str., for Swatow.
31, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
31, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
February—
1, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
1, Presto, German str., for Touron.
1, Lawang, German str., for Singapore.
1, Lyderhorn, Nor. str., for Amoy.
1, Angers, British str., for Yokohama.
1, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Hoihow, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Myrmidon, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Pathan, British str., for New York.
1, Pekin, British str., for Amoy.
1, Verona, British str., for Yokomama.
2, Benlawers, British str., for Saigon.
2, Pallas, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
2, Benledi, British str., for London.
2, J. Diedericksen, Ger. str., for Iloilo.
2, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
2, Pingsuey, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Wingsang, British str., for Calcutta.
3, Fokien, British str., for Swatow.
3, Hertha, German str., for Yokohama.
3, Taichiow, British str., for Bangkok.
3, Tailee, German str., for Swatow.
3, Lucile, Amr. ship, for New York.
4, Dryfesdale, British str., for Shanghai.
4, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
4, Kungping, British str., for Canton.
4, Lienshing, British str., for Swatow.
4, Peiyang, German str., for Luzon.
4, Wuotan, German str., for Saigon.
5, Mathilde, German str., for Saigon.
5, Cromarty, British str., for Singapore.
5, Thales, British str., for Swatow.

AMOY.

January— ARRIVALS.
23, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
23, Haitan, British str., from Foochow.
24, Thales, British str., from Hongkong.
25, Pyrrhus, British str., from Hongkong.
25, Pathan, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Namoa, British str., from Hongkong.
27, Pekin, British str., from Wenchow.
27, Ping Ching, R.C. cr., from Lighthouses.
28, Fokien, British str., from Tamsui.
28, Hailoong, British str., from Hongkong.
30, Newchwang, British str., from Swatow.

January— DEPARTURES.
22, Shantung, British str., for Swatow.
23, Hailoong, British str., for Hongkong.
23, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
24, Thales, British str., for Thales.
25, Pyrrhus, British str., for Shanghai.
27, Rewa, British bark, for Shanghai.
29, Elisabeth, German bark, for Taiwanfoo.
29, Ping Ching, C.R. cruiser, for Lighthouses.
29, Namoa, British str., for Foochow.
29, Hailoong, British str., for Tamsui.
29, Fokien, British str., for Swatow.
29, Pekin, British str., for Hongkong.
30, Pathan, British str, for Hongkong.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Myrmidon*, str., from Singapore.—Mr. Lowden and Misses Lowden.

Per *Kaisar-i-Hind*, str., for Hongkong from London.—Mr. and Mrs. Marsden and child, Lieut. Ommaney, R.N., Mrs. Ommaney, Staff Engineer Thomas and Mrs. Thomas and child, Mrs. Mudie and infant, Messrs. Turnour, Crook, and Rev. Shaw. From Brindisi.—Messrs. Alexander and Paley. From Malta.—Mr. Leach. From Bombay.—Mr. Khan, Mrs. Josephs and child. From Colombo.—Mrs. Shaw and 4 children, Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield. From Singapore.—Messrs. Graham, Pollock, and Baines. For Shanghai from London.—Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and 4 children, Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy, Misses Springle and Smith. From Marseilles.—Dr. Müller. For Yokohama from Ismailia.—Mr. and Mrs. Weed. From Singapore.—Mr. Tsutata.

Per *Hanoi*, str., for Hoihow.—Mrs. E. P. Sequeira and family. For Haiphong.—Rev. P. Gilbert. Messrs. L. Bernard and Baines.

Per *Fokien*, str., from Tamsui, &c.,—Mrs. Dumne and child.

Per *Hertha*, str., from Singapore.—Messrs. Hubbe, Fildmann, and Lokumsky, and 100 Chinese.

Per *Thales*, str., from Coast Ports.—Mrs. Bathurst and Miss Andrews.

Per *Namoa*, str., from Foochow, &c.—Messrs. Harman and Begley.

Per *Sungkiang*, str., from Manila.—Messrs. Brode and Obrien.

Per *Darmstadt*, str., from Shanghai.—Mr. H. H. Fox.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila.—Mr. Marcus Sinct.

DEPARTED.

Per *Kaisar-i-Hind*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong.—Master M. E. Benjamin, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson, Mr. and Mrs. Maher, Mr. Johnson, and Comte de Marois. From London.—Miss Springle, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and 4 children, Miss Smith, Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy. From Marseilles.—Dr. Müller.

Per *Rosetta*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore.—Surg.-Capt. J. W. Wolfe and Mr. A. Apear. For Brindisi.—Mr. T. B. Aug. Kessle. For London.—Staff-Surg. Jas. McC. Martin, R.N., Lieut. Alfred E. Rawnsley, R.N., Mr. A. E. Travis, R.N., Staff-Surg. Thos. R. Pickthorn, R.N., and Mr. Henry P. Sparks, R.N. From Shanghai for Brindisi.—Messrs. P. L. Rosseau and C. S. Harrison. For London.—Mr. and Mrs. Pollard and child, Mr. and Mrs. Donald and child, Mr. and Mrs. Dixon Rust. For London via Marseilles.—Mr Byrne. For Adelaide.—Mr. Rogers. From Yokohama for Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. Hooper. For Penang.—Hon. W. C. Brown. For Ismailia.—General J. C. Smith and Miss Smith. For London.—Mr. R. H. Wetherell. From Nagasaki for London.—Mr. R. Holta.

Per *Verona*, str., for Yokohama from Hongkong.—Messrs. V. Todoroki and B. Byramjee. From Ismailia.—Mr. and Mrs. Weed. From London.—Messrs. Turnour and Tsutata.